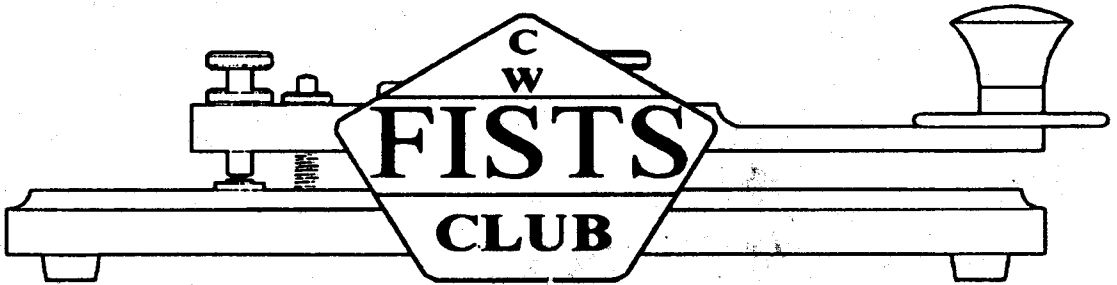


The Keynote

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"

Do you have a question? Look here first!

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** College Students = \$10. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge-only one newsletter is mailed per household. **Send to 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 Phone number is 810-797-2033.

***RENEW?** Send **\$15/year** or \$10/year for college students (under 17 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 few weeks, please don't be concerned, the card probably crossed with your renewal.

*** GET A NUMBER FOR MY LOCAL CLUB?** Clubs with FCC callsigns may be assigned a FISTS number at no charge providing there is at least one FISTS member in good standing in the local club. These clubs are not legally affiliated with FISTS, nor does FISTS have anything to do with how the club is run, etc. It just means the club has a FISTS number and is worth three points toward awards. If the club wants a newsletter, there is a \$15 a year charge.

***PAY FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION OF A DX FISTS MEMBER?** Subs for European FISTS, paid from the USA, is \$10/year American cash. Non-European (Africa, Japan, etc.) 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. 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.

***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, BB3 2LZ England, he will get in touch with them and send them a DX application.

***SEND APPLICATION OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A North American 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 available for downloading on our FISTS webpage <http://www.fists.org>.

***UPDATE MY ADDRESS or CALLSIGN ON THE FISTS DATABASE?** Send corrections or changes to NancyKott WZ8C at FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047. Please send labels with your corrections to the FISTS QSL Bureau so the bureau workers don't have to change all your SASEs by hand.

***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, <http://www.fists.org>

***Get on the FISTS Email List?** For periodic Email updates send your Email address, callsign and FISTS number to Kathi Hilton at FISTS-Elist@attbi.com. Due to potential spam problems, the list is not given out to the membership and is not published on the web page. It is ONLY used to notify you of FISTS items of interest. If you want people to know your email address, we recommend you include it in your listing on QRZ.com or Buckmaster lookup service.

*** ORDER SUPPLIES? NEW PRICING STARTING FEBRUARY 2003:** Irene Kott, WO8E is our Supply Manager. Her address is 44609 N.Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038. Our supplies are sold as close to cost as possible. Metallic gold logo stickers 200 for \$3.50; **NEW** "I (heart) CW" 3/4 inch round stickers 200 for \$3.50. "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .50;

Blue enamel cloisonne /gold metal "FISTS CW CLUB" logo pin with tie-tack type pin-back 1" x 1 1/8" octagon \$1.50

NEW White enamel cloisonne pin "I (red heart graphic) CW", "FISTS CW Club" along edge; 3/4" diameter circle \$1.50

Rubber stamp of FISTS logo to use with an ink pad (not included) \$5.00;

Embroidered patch with key logo \$1;

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! I don't know how it happened, but the printing company used the Issue 2, 2002 list to make the labels, instead of Issue 2, 2003. At least that's what I THINK happened. I've been bombarded with cards, letters and emails from people with years-out-of-date renewal times on their Issue 2 labels and from people who never received their Issue 2.

If you were one who didn't get Issue 2, please let me know and I'll credit you for the missing issue, unless you'd like to get a replacement copy of Issue 2. Please include your mailing address if requesting a replacement issue, it helps me out a lot.

Field Day is almost here, where did Spring go? By the time you read this, the Spring Sprint will most likely be history. I hope you had a good time, don't forget to send in your log to Sprint Manager, Dan N8IE. I also hope band conditions over WZ8C-land are better than they were for the Winter Sprint!

I'm excited about attending the International DX Convention in Visalia, California in a couple weeks. I'm especially looking forward to having an eyeball QSO with FISTS members, including our Awards Manager, Dennis K6DF. We've commu-

nicated for years, but never met, so that will be fun. I am not sure how coherent I'll be...I'm flying out of Detroit at 8AM (which means I have to get up at 4:30AM, since I'm about 1 1/2 hours from the airport) and won't get to Visalia until about 7PM PDT. I probably won't sleep much that night, which means I'll be a wreck for the convention on Saturday. Then I'm getting up again at 4:30AM on Sunday morning to catch a flight to Detroit that will get me back at my QTH about 2 in the morning Sunday night (Monday morning). Am I crazy or what? Don't answer that, hi hi!

You SHOULD get this issue before the Hamvention -- I'm crossing my fingers. There will be a FISTS Get-Together Friday evening at the Ramada South. It will coincide with the QRPers Vendor Night. I've been trying to finalize arrangements with the QRP guys to get part of the ballroom set aside with tables for FISTS to sit and chat, but nothing has been finalized yet. Stop by the FISTS booth at the Hamvention to get directions and details.

Jack, WB2FXK - WO8E asked me to remind you to stop by the FISTS booth and check in before you run off to go shopping! 73 88, Nancy WZ8C

The Clara Reger Proficiency Certificate

The Radio Association of Western New York will be sponsoring the Clara Reger W2"RUF n' READY" Code Proficiency Test on Saturday May 31.

In 1984, RAWNY sponsored the first session at the Ham-O-Rama Hamfest in Hamburg, New York in honor of Clara Reger, W2RUF a former RAWNY member and now a SK.

Clara was first licensed in October, 1933 as W8KYR. She was issued a Class A Operators License in 1935. Received her call W2RUF after WWII. Involved in disaster communication throughout her ham career, she was given "Outstanding Amateur of the State of New York" Award, 1961; 30 Yr. Service to Amateurs" Award, 1963; "Edison Award", 1957 for teaching a 14 year old, who had lost both arms in an accident, how to send code with his feet; and "Tell Your Neighbor" Award for handling messages to servicemen overseas. Clara was the official Red Cross Emergency Station of Buffalo, Route Manager for the National Traffic System, Net Manager for the New York State CW Net, New York State Slow Speed Net and the Novice Training Net. Clara originated the signature "33" which the YLRL adopted in 1939. Clara's code speed was in excess of 50 WPM.

One way or another Clara has influenced the way we enjoy our hobby.

Each participant who can perfectly copy one out of five minutes of text at 7.5 WPM receives a Certificate. We can increase the speed to up to 85 if needed. Each certificate is numbered, sealed with the RAWNY club seal and registered. Participants can try as many times as they wish. A record is kept of their highest speed.

So far the highest speed that we've witnessed was 60 WPM in 1987 at the Rochester Hamfest. Bud Hippisley, K2KIR and Bob Weinstock, KN1K, started at 7.5 WPM and copied perfect code until we had to stop at 60 WPM because I ran out of tapes. They were on a roll and could have gone higher. Participation has dropped every year since we started, that is until the licensing code requirement was changed. There was a major jump in those trying for the certificate.

To date we've given out 185 Certificates. Many come back each year to improve their speed. I look forward to seeing more CW ops again this year. Kevin T. Kedzierski WA2FKV Special Events Coordinator Radio Association of Western New York cklutz@buffnet.net

This is the FISTS operating position at KM1CC, the Marconi Special event station. Passing out numbers is David N1EA who is a commercial morse operator. He is using a telegraph key made by the Italian government to commemorate Marconi's experiments and given to KM1CC as a token of their appreciation.



Certificate of Recognition



Stan - K4UK



JJ - N3AXB

In days of old, when ops were bold,
And sidebands not invented,
The word would pass
By pounding brass,
And all were well contented.

***This Certificate is presented to JJ Weigand, N3AXB
in recognition of our QSO on 14.058 Mhz CW
at 2310 UTC on March 30, 2003.
JJ is the 1500th FISTS member I have contacted.***

Certificate presented this 30th day of March, 2003 Stan Reas - K4UK

Stan, K4UK, had a QSO with JJ, N3AXB. JJ handles the "3" and "6" calls for the QSL Bureau. He had purchased an MFJ keyer from me and was trying it out. Stan noticed from his FISTS log that he was the 1500th FISTS member he had contacted. Stan made him an appropriate Certificate to recognize this "Milestone" QSO.

Sunday April 13 was the annual Madison swapfest held here in Stoughton. Besides seeing a lot of his local friends, WA9PWP got to "eyeball QSO" with FISTS members Jim K9JXW and Rob W8YRB. Here is a picture from my annual "post-swapfest" party, showing "Two Hams and a PIG", with WA9PWP and K9JXW, the PIG of course being the beer-filled "party pig" brought by K9JXW!



FISTS Winter Sprint, 2003 Results

Hello FISTS! WOW just about sums it up! I was very happy to see the number of logs sent in. Also great to see a large number of you (about 30+) used one of the many computer programs to submit your logs. This made scoring a lot easier. Thanks again to all the software programmers for helping out with this.

I was very, very happy to see so many QRP'ers sending in logs, and with some pretty impressive scores. I got a chance to work this Sprint myself, and thanks for all the new contacts, and working old friends again.

I hope to see some of you at Dayton this year, if you see me, please say hello! Hope to catch you down the logs! 73 Dan, N8IE FISTS #4985, Sprint Manager

CLUB Catagory

<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Club Name</u>	<u>FISTS#</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>Score</u>
K5PTC	Bruce	Pesky Texan Contest Club	9725	TX	30147
K6TTXCA		East Bay Contest Society	4600	CA	29070
K8FST	Al	Fairborn FISTS Club	9200	OH	15147
W5DAR	Paul	Deming Amateur Radio Club	7500	NM	14832
NJ2BB	Harry	Battleship New Jersey ARS	9262	NJ	10611
W4GAC	John	St. Pete ARC (SPARC)	7875	FL	9360
KC7EQW	Bruce	Imperial Valley ARC	8675	CA	8372
W8NCK	Chuck	Sandusky Valley ARC	8200	OH	6000
W4FFF	Furman	FISTS Club of NC	9700	NC	4864
N7PMW	Gordie	Silver State Bugs	5900	NV	4462
W2GLQ	Tony	Nutley Amateur Radio Society	8175	NJ	2952
K5TCC	Doc	Tarrant County College ARC	7400	TX	1120

QRP Catagory

<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>FISTS#</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>Score</u>					
KG5U	Dale	5880	TX	18876	N2EZY	David	7543	NY	1044
K7RE	Brian	8113	SD	13746	K1RV	Harold	7012	MA	990
K4UK	Stan	2934	VA	5475	W1PID	Jim	6760	NH	960
K3ESE	Lloyd	8774	MD	5460	AA0XJ	James	1978	IA	936
AF4LQ	Mike	4139	KY	4876	KG9HV	John	1750	IN	888
W0UFO	Mert	3823	MN	3784	KB3CVO	Tom	8110	PA	871
KB9BVN	Brian	5695	IN	3553	K6ENT	Jim	7885	CA	770
K8FP	Daryl	7572	OH	3400	W9ZC	Bob	7697	WI	768
W3ZMN	Conrad	8634	PA	3381	KY7F	Doug	7311	WY	720
K4YKI	Norman	2166	KY	2952	W5TB	Doc	5365	TX	675
W2AGN	John	2781	NJ	2793	WA5ZJK	Glenn	4978	TX	540
K0MAX	Max	9134	MN	2430	AC4NV	Orville	5467	VA	440
KG4IKQ	Jim	7590	NC	2159	AG4NY	Bruce	6911	NC	315
WD8JOL	Parker	3043	OH	1950	KC8LTL	Kenneth	6919	MI	315
WA5TCZ	Darron	9441	LA	1920	KD9B	Dennis	8437	KY	280
K3AS	Wilfred	2164	DE	1760	W2BVH	Lenny	7621	NJ	240
					VE3WMB	Mike	9437	ON	200

QRO Catgory

<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>FISTS#</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>Score</u>					
N2ED	Ed	2454	NJ	42955	WA9YYF	Ed	4921	IL	2430
K4BAI	John	2158	GA	29713	W9KMP	Ken	4626	IL	2413
K4IA	Craig	6702	VA	25300	NG7Z	Paul	5368	WA	2240
K7LFY	Bob	7866	OK	22680	K8VFR	Rose	5602	MI	2236
N9BOR	Mike	4594	IL	17575	K2MKX	Peter	8464	NY	2192
WB0B	Larry	2916	IA	17115	WB2WGX	Rich	6853	NY	1788
N7YY	Bernie	4595	MT	15296	N5LF	Allen	3027	VA	1717
WD9EMF	Vic	8574	IL	14912	KG4NYV	Robert	8553	SC	1680
KC0CGR	Bob	5218	SD	12338	NB7F	Lee	6679	OR	1605
N5EYX	Roy	7270	TX	12236	W0CGV	John	9366	CO	1540
W6YHM	Don	8635	CA	11946	K6MGO	Bill	9253	CA	1500
N4TN	Don	8898	TN	10137	W3TZW	Roy	3205	PA	1218
KN9X	Dan	8671	IL	9984	K7WF	Stu	1493	WA	1200
WB0PYF	Ray	7986	MO	9641	NX2GW	Richard	3342	NJ	1190
K9FO	Will	9339	IL	9641	K7RRR	Dick	5448	AZ	1040
K8CI	Richard	5270	OH	9384	WL7WH	Bob	3420	AK	936
K8NVR	Ed	7957	OH	8176	KD5GRF	Carl	8033	TX	910
W4DON	Don	3936	NC	7938	KI0ET	Fred	5168	MO	880
KF3DC	Ken	6521	MD	7812	KC2JCA	Jim	N/A	NJ	770
K2MJ	Karl	7874	NY	7722	WA9PWP	Paul	2153	WI	720
W7SOM	John	9358	WA	6288	AA3II	Gerald	9746	PA	650
K8MW	Richard	9183	MI	6210	VE5BCS	Harold	3498	SK	648
K8FLY	William	3032	MI	6048	W8GAC	John	4043	OH	600
WA7CS	Carl	4561	WA	5566	K6TN	Richard	7805	WY	550
KE9GM	Greg	6920	IN	5522	W6FPS	Ron	8577	CA	520
KB6NU	Dan	9342	MI	5300	K4SP	Steven	9383	VA	450
WA6PX	Jim	8802	CA	5300	ZL1AIH	Ken	9094	ZL	330
K4ORD	Riley	4272	VA	5208	K6DF	Dennis	3076	CA	180
KR1B	Robert	3442	MA	4730	KE3CR	Giles	4192	DE	40
K7ZYZ	Carl	3426	MS	4503	NU3E	John	3833	CT	30
AE2L	Joshua	1912	NC	4248					
W0NX	Keith	4354	CO	4140					
AK7O	Jack	5019	UT	4032					
WB2FXK	Jack	918	NY	3960					
N8UW	Chuck	9348	OH	3956					
AD6XI	Josh	9341	CA	3938					
VE7NI	John	7935	BC	3885					
N8IE	Dan	4985	OH	3500					
WA8YPY	Ruth	4590	MI	3360					
N2IJ	Ray	6596	NY	3150					
KF4HAY	Neal	6204	KY	3100					
KG9LZ	Tom	5769	IL	2840					
VA3EWP	Vincent	8070	ONT	2790					
AC7QG	Paul	8697	ID	2565					
N2APQ	Robert	8753	NY	2562					
W2KFQ	Harry	9322	NM	2546					

SOAPBOX COMMENTS

Al, **W8FAX**, OH Fairborn FISTS, K8FST FISTS# 9200: Bands not super good this time. Sure wish we could get more participation, but still a good time was had at K8FST. 73, Al, Dave, **WT8R** Parker, WD8JOL, OH FISTS# 3043: My first Sprint. Great fun, even if the bands werent all that hot. Next time, I hope to hang in there for the whole Sprint. Thanks for a fun event. Harry, **W2JFQ**, NM FISTS# 9322: I enjoy the Sprints so much that when one is over I find I am already looking for the next one! Chuck, **KB8KIK**, OH Sandusky Valley ARC, W8NCK FISTS# 8200: Bob, K8EIG and I both ran the club call during the Sprint contest. Bob operated 10 and 15 meter bands and I operated

20 and 40 meter bands. First time I was able to work the entire period.

Mert, **W0UFO**, MN FISTS# 3823: Had hoped to work more time but other plans interfered. Had fun anyway, thanks for a nice Sprint. Mert

Jim, **KC2JCA**, NJ: #2 for me. A little better than last time. But also QRO instead of QRP.

Robert, **KG4NYV**, SC FISTS# 8553: My first FISTS contest.

Tony, **KG2GL**, NJ Nutley Amateur Radio Society, W2GLQ FISTS# 5947: This was a first contest for some ops. We had a lot of fun! Looking forward to the Sprint Sprint. 3 ops, KG2GC, NV2J, AB2LD

William, **K8FLY**, MI FISTS# 3032: Nice to see so much participation! I worked quite a few new FISTS, also a bit of rag chewing. What a good time!

Paul, **WA9PWP**, WI FISTS# 2153: Got in casual operating time while doing household chores. Stuck with 10 meters because it's nice to catch it open!

Stu, **K7WF**, Wa FISTS# 1493: With a sick wife at home I couldn't spare much time, but I did encounter some excellent FISTS during the Sprint. I still don't understand why some require repeats of name and FISTS number after giving 599 reports!! My biggest thrill was working ZL1AIH #9094 and chatting about my visits to New Zealand with him. Lot of fun!! Stan, K7WF

Gordie, **N7PMW**, NV Golden State Bugs, N7PMW: FISTS# 5900 Thank you for your efforts to make this a fun Sprint. 73 Gordi

Peter, **K2MKX**, NY FISTS# 8464: I have not worked for 4 straight hours on the key since 1952 aboard USCG cutter GRESHAM... I was beat... but I really enjoyed the challenge of copying thru the "big guns" with their KW. This my first contest and I was very happy to work as many guys as I did. I have a small set up and making 27 QSOs would take me a month. I did it in 4 hours. It was worth it. Best wishes to your committee for a great job. Peter, K2MKX

James, **AA0XJ**, IA FISTS# 1978: Only got in 2 hours on 20 meters for entire Sprint. Running QRP 4.5W to a G5RV at 20', outdoors operating position, temp 20F at operators position! Glad to put IA into the Sprint. Good cold practice for FYBO contest!

John, **NU3E**, NJ FISTS# 3833: Conditions very good. Lots of Sprint calls heard on all bands, even 10 meters was active.

Dick, **K7RRR**, Az FISTS# 5448: Enjoyed the Sprint, nice to work many new members. Look forward to the next one!

John, **KU4BT**, FL St. Pete Amateur Radio Club FISTS# 7875:

4 contacts on 10, 11 on 20, the rest were on 15, which stayed hot the whole time. Seemed like there were more FISTS stations on the air this time. We covered from 045 to 065 pretty solid, as always it was fun. Lots of high numbers too, you can tell the club is growing. 73 John

John, **W8GAC**, OH FISTS# 4043: Only got about an hour in, lots of activity on 40 meters.

Rich, **WB2WGX**, NY FISTS# 6853L I have been a FISTS member for a few years now, but I usually do not operate contests anymore. I used to operate Field Day and Sweepstakes, but now I would rather sleep nites. I never paid any attention to the Sprints because it is a contest. The Brasspounders E-Mail and Keynote caused me to see the times were in the afternoon, and only 4 hours long. I have been known to ragchew that long! I decided to give the Sprints a try and I had a ball. I forgot all the tricks I learned back in the 60's when we used to stay up all night working 40 cw on Field Day, but one by one they started coming back to me. I surprised myself when I forgot to put down the pencil when sending with the Vibroplex paddles, I haven't done that in 25 years! I need to work on my logging and notes to speed things up, however it is relaxing to work a contest when the participants are sending at a reasonable speed (easier to log!) I usually copy in my head, and just scribble down a few notes, and normally run 25-35 WPM. I operate mobile from my Mini Cooper with a Scout and Hamstick as it helps to pass the time on my 45 minute commute down I90. I plan on operating in the Sprints again. I only worked 31 contacts in about three and a half hours, but it was enjoyable and a pleasure to meet some new FISTS members. Keep up the good work with the FISTS and thank you for managing the Sprints. 73's Rich, WB2WGX

Bruce, **AG4NY**, NC FISTS# 6911: First Sprint, good learning experience!

Bob, **W9ZC**, WI FISTS# 7697: Hi all. I've been a member of FISTS for over 3 years. This was my first FISTS contest. I really enjoyed the Winter Sprint. I was working QRP with a battery supplied 5 watts and a dipole in the attic. I was able to make 13 reliable contacts. There were many "almost" contacts but the QRM, QRN, 20 meter conditions as well as my limited skill only allowed me to make 13 QSOs. I have one question. I thought a Sprint entailed making a contact and then turning that frequency over to the responding station. I found some stations maintaining a frequency for the complete contest. If I'm incorrect, I apologize. I look forward to the future Sprints. Bob, **W9ZC**
Vincent, **VA3EWP**, Ont FISTS# 8070: Great contest, first contest I enjoyed so much, nice to see people can contest and interject a bit of friendliness and courtesy. 73's Vincent

Craig, **K4IA**, VA FISTS# 6702: Lots of action on 15, 10 was dead.

Will, **K9FO**, IL FISTS# 9339: Band conditions were good. Had fun with CW! I heard several stations on after 2100Z. HIHI. I like the 4 hours, it would be fun to try a 6 or 8 hr Sprint sometime.

Steven, **K4SP**, VA FISTS# 9383: This is my first contest. I was on about 1-1/2 hours and listened more than sent. It was fun once I got the hang of it!

Bob, **WL7WH**, AK FISTS# 3420: Poor conditions for me, always fun though!

Dan, **KB6NU**, MI FISTS# 9342: This was my first real contest. Great fun! 73, Dan

John, **W7SOM**, WA FISTS# 9358: Four hours is just right. Had a lot of fun. I enjoy working familiar call signs and the new ones as well. A big thank you to the people who check the logs and keep the scores.

Ray, **WB0PYF**, MO FISTS# 7986: Had lots of fun, good way to meet new FISTS friends and work old FISTS friends.

Don, **W6YHM**, CA FISTS# 8635: Lots of activity, but some normally common states were conspicuous by their absence. My day was made when K4UE showed up to round out my list of states for the WAS award. 73 all!

Harry, **AA2WN**, NJ Battleship New Jersey ARS, **NJ2BB** FISTS# 9262: Very good conditions on all bands. We had 2 stations active for the full 4 hours, with 4 operators at the keys, AA2WN, WK2W, K2UDA, WA2VOY. Running 100 watts to Navy Issue ship board antennas with 57,000 ton counter poise works great!

Mike, **N9BOR**, IL FISTS# 4594: Drake C line, ground mounted vertical.

Stan, **K4UK**, VA Franklin County ARC FISTS# 2934: Ran the Elecraft K2 again at 5 watts as a QRP entry. Had at least one contact on each of the five bands. Last one on 80 meters as the Sprint was ending. And I did work one "DX" station. Conditions on 10 meters were good just before the Sprint as I worked 15 "PA" stations in their contest. But didn't hear any of our "DX FISTS" members on 10. Got my one "G" contact on 15 meters. I did pick up 22 new ones for my NANFY grid. But running QRP requires patience - Hi!

Neal, **KF4HAY**, KY FISTS# 6204: All the bands seemed to be pretty active. I broke the 3000 point level, so this is my highest score yet. Feels good to rack up some points. I still would like to score higher though, can't wait till the next Sprint. I hear some other names and states that I would like to have contacted but, it wasn't my frequency. I had lots of fun and hope everyone else did too. It helps get your mind off other things for awhile. See you next time. 73 Neal

Harold, **VE5BCS**, SAK FISTS# 3498: Thank you. Test very enjoyable. I will try to work more bands next test. 73

David, **N2EZY**, NY FISTS# 7543: I enjoyed the Sprint as always, however this one is more memorable. For this Sprint: I operated QRP with a new radio. I operated for the first time from a new QTH. I got enough points to apply for Century Club Award. 73, Dave

Orville, **AC4NV**, VA FISTS# 5467: Greetings! Excluding Field Day, this was my first contest! I enjoyed every minute. My CW was rusty, but I told myself weeks ago that "I would participate." I enjoy CW and the people I meet. The FISTS organization only adds more flavor and depth to the

enjoyment. 73's and Happy Brasspounding, Orville

Vic, **WD9EMF**, IL FISTS# 8574: FUN! FUN! FUN! FUN! FUN!

Norman, **K4YKI**, KY FISTS# 2166: A good day for a Sprint. 6F at sunrise and got up to maybe 32F for a high. Sunshine abundant but so was the wind, brrr. Thanks as always - big job! Bands not too bad but wasted time on 15 meters, just was not the conditions for QRP operation there. I thought 40 meters came through in a good way. Folks spread out more too. 73, Norm

Don, **N4TN**, TN FISTS# 8898: I was an hour late getting started! Great conditions on all bands and good participation from the western states. I enjoyed it very much.

Larry, **WB0B**, IA FISTS# 2916: Almost a great time! The XYL was out of town and all I planned to do was work FISTS during the Sprint. Then the phone rang. Next someone rang the doorbell. But at least I had ample "quality time" with FISTS friends! **WB0B**

Darron, **WA5TCZ**, LA FISTS# 6441: Been a Ham 36 years, first contest ever. Had a great time meeting old friends that helped along the way CC#. Many asked about my very loud signal for 5 watts, I am running two horizontal loops at 55 feet with 400 feet of wire in both loops, I have 800 feet of wire in the air. Won't miss next Sprint and will be better prepared. Thanks to all, Darron, Giles, **KF3CR**, OK FISTS# 4192: Had Saturday off for a change, snow storm Friday, couldn't do Friday shopping didn't get to turn on rig until 2000Z. Lots of West Coast but couldn't get through Midwest stations. However Texas popped in good, hope I can try again in the Spring. Always have a ball. 10 meters open but few knew it. HI!! 73, Giles

Furman, **W4MJT**, NC FISTS Club of NC, **W4FFF** FISTS# 9700: Was a lot of fun putting FISTS newest member club W4FFF on the air. Ops were Rich N4RE, and Furman W4MJT. Had disruptions, but still made a few contacts. Hopefully more ops will be encouraged to participate. Seemed a bit light in numbers. I would love to see one Sprint lengthen to maybe 8 or 12 hours.

Don, **W4DON**, NC FISTS# 3936: Operated 40 & 20 meters. 100W out, dipole and 3 element Yagi. Riley, **K4ORD**, VA FISTS# 4272: Had a great time in the Sprint, conditions were pretty good. Europe was in pretty good on 10 meters, but only 10DX FISTS worked. We need to try and get more DX stations in the Sprint. 73 Riley

Gerald, **AA3II**, PA FISTS# 9746: My ventures into contesting involve pouncing on the Big Guns. With FISTS sprint, I learned a bit about pickin'em out from among the rest of us. AND, kinda nice just copying the exchanges rather than analyzing the bursts.

Harold, **K1RV**, MA FISTS# 7012: This was my first ever effort in the FISTS Sprint. What a BLAST! I only wish that I had more than 45 minutes to operate! I will plan to catch all further Sprints. I used my FT-817 for a QRP effort and just LOVE using Writelog for contest logging!

Kent, **K6ENT**, CA FISTS# 7885: To honor Jim Maxwell, W6CF, I operated this sprint with the name Jim. W6CF sadly became an SK recently. He will be missed by many in the Pacific Division and around the world.

Bill, **K6MGO**, Ca FISTS# 9253: My first ever contest entry, sure was fun!!!

All contacts were made with 40 watts into a 64 foot doublet inside of a 22 X 20 foot garage.

Brian, **K7RE**, SD FISTS# 8113: Activity up from the Fall event. Lot's of good strong signals too. Heard lot's of new calls as well as some older ones too. Great fun.

Richard, **K8MW**, MI FISTS# 9183: My First Sprint-Lots of fun and new Numbers.

Brian, **KB9BVN**, IN FISTS# 5695: FIRST SPRINT IN A LONG TIME - LOADS OF FUN!!!

Bruce, **WB7RHT**, CA Imperial Valley ARC FISTS# 8675: Op's - Bruce / WB7RHT / 8618 and Dennis / WB6CGJ / 7343:

Thomas, **KG9LZ**, IL FISTS# 5769: As usual, this sprint was exciting and a lot of fun. My score is about double what I've done in the past. Either the stations are in there to work or they are not. This time they were in there. Canada was found on 15 and 10m. Also Fists clubs that I have missed in the past were in there. No luck in calling CQ, I pounced on every contact. Thanks to everyone who made the event a success. vy 73, Tom Dolph **KG9LZ**

Fred, **KI0ET**, MO FISTS# 5168: Thanks for your volunteer efforts. I enjoy the sprints and I am grateful for the people who make them possible.
73, Fred, **KI0ET**, #5168

Dan, **KN9X**, IL FISTS# 8671: Late start, but had a great time!

Ray, **N2IJ**, NY FISTS# NA: As always, I had a great time participating in the FISTS Sprint.

Roy, **N5EYX**, TX FISTS# 7270: Had a ball. 20 m ant on the fritz. Worked 15m and 10m only.

Alan, **N5LF**, VA FISTS# 3027: Great conditions this year, with lots of strong stations.

Noticed many using "QRL?", QSYing when asked, accurate RST reports, and respecting net frequencies. Fists ops are very courteous and really do set a good example for others. What great hams! 73 ES dit dit, DE **N5LF**.

Michael, **VE3WMB**, ONT FISTS# 9437: My First FISTS Sprint. Pretty casual operating but had fun with my FT-817!

John, **W2AGN**, NJ FISTS# 2781: Just got on intermittently while doing other chores. Tried out an old, rebuilt FT-7. Worked pretty good. If people **MUST** insist on giving CC numbers, how about scoring like this: 2 points non member, 5 points member, 7 points member with cc number.

Doc, **W5TB**, TX FISTS# 5365: Was having fun in sprint awaiting receipt of writelog which I badly need as I keep forgetting to note band changes :-). If band of QSOs from 1730 on disagree with other OPs by all means discredit mine and keep theirs! Worked second half of sprint as **K5TCC** using writelog & things went much smoother :-).

Glenn, **WA5ZJK**, TX FISTS# 4978: Not many contacts but had a great time.

*FISTS GET-TOGETHER FRIDAY NIGHT
DAYTON HAMVENTION WEEKEND
We will be joining the QRPers at their
Vendors Night at the Ramada Inn.
Maps available at the FISTS Booth at
the Hamvention.*

Mini book review

"The Victorian Internet" by Tom Standage Published (hardcover) by Walker and Co, NY, copyright 1998

This is an interesting book for a Ham and a CW operator to read. It is not a scientific treatise on the development of the telegraph. Rather, it is written for the layman in a fast-reading, conversational style, and I found it quite interesting.

Tom Standage traces the history of man's desire to pass information faster than a horse and rider, or ship could carry it; from Carthusian Monks in Paris holding sections of iron wire in 1747 to the French ... Ok, I am not giving away any more information, except to say that Samuel Morse proposed to his second wife via Morse code!

All the contributions by major and minor inventors are covered, and the rise and fall of the mighty world-wide telegraph networks of the 1800's are covered well, including many comparisons to the modern internet! It was an eye-opener to find some of our ham CW operating practices and terms were used almost 150 years ago! Of course it was the invention of the telephone that brought the demise of the telegraph. Radio is not mentioned at all. Thankfully, Morse's code lives on! Tom really did a lot of research for this book, it all seems very factual, and there are many references dating back to the 1840's listed in the back of the book. The book is a little over 200 pages, there are very few illustrations, but the print is large.

This book is available via the various internet booksellers, in bookstores, and I frequently see it for sale on E-Bay. There is also a paperback edition. I obtained my hardcover copy in mint condition with the dustjacket for about half the list price on E-Bay. Something to add to your ham library!

73, Paul **WA9PWP** FISTS 2153

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Don't forget to send your Spring Sprint logs

to : **Dan Shepherd, N8IE**
1900 Pittsfield St.
Kettering, Oh 45420

QRP With John Shannon, K3WWP Column #57

A couple of issues ago I began to answer the question "Which band is the best band for QRP?" with a description of the merits of each of the HF bands (or MF and HF bands for those purists who - correctly - consider 160M a MF band.) I ran out of space after covering 30M so let me continue the discussion this month starting with 20M.

As before, each band description starts with the number of US states, countries, continents, and CQ zones I've worked on that band. This will give you a quick idea of how the band works for QRP and simple antennas.

First a general statement about all the bands from 20 through 10M. Except near the sunspot maximums, they are mostly daylight bands, and will be dead at night for much of the 11-year sunspot cycle.

20M - 50, 153, 6, 33 - This is probably the best overall band if you're interested in working DX with your QRP over the entire duration of a sunspot cycle, although 30M might also fit that description. 20M has the advantage of being a contest band while 30M is not. Contests are great places to pick up new states, zones, countries, etc. Also the main county hunters net frequency (14.056) is on this band if that is one of your interests. One disadvantage of this band is that you will have a lot of competition from high power stations as most hams who operate QRO have very solid setups for 20M with powerful signals. There is a lot of FISTS activity on this band. It's a decent band for rag chewing although if some rare DX shows up - as it often does - near your QSO, the quickly developing pileup will probably bring a premature end to your QSO.

17M - 42, 121, 6, 30 - I like this little band quite a lot. It will not be open quite as often as 20M when the sunspots decline, but it is often open when 15M and the higher bands are not. This statement is true of all the bands from

here on up - fewer openings than the next lower band, but more openings than the next higher band. When the high bands are all open, this band, along with 12M are often places to go to get away from the crowds. There almost always seems to be less activity on 17 and 12M than on the mainstream non-WARC bands. Of course when a rare DX station shows up here, that situation changes rapidly and the whole CW segment may be full of DX chasers. A lot of the activity here is DX oriented and I find it harder to work USA stations than to work DX, since most of the USA stations are here to chase DX and not to rag chew. If you do like to rag chew, it is a good band for that as signals are often stable for some lengths of time. The problem is often finding someone else who wants to rag chew.

15M - 50, 150, 6, 31 - With the exception of the fact that it's not open for as much of the day nor as much of the sunspot cycle, the description for 20M applies to this band. Being a contest band, it's an excellent source of states, zones, and countries. There is not as much county hunting activity here outside of contests. When both 15 and 20 are open, 15 will be better for working QRP DX, as it will generally provide better propagation for the lower power stations although the specific openings to a certain area may not last as long. As we go higher in frequency, propagation changes more rapidly and what may start out as a long ragchew will come to a premature end as conditions change.

12M - 25, 94, 6, 25 - As the description for 15M matches 20M, so 12M matches 17M. It is open much less often than 17M, but the openings often provide stronger signals for the QRPer. For my situation with simple antennas, I notice this band only provides really good conditions for 3-4 years of the sunspot cycle, while the rest of the time it is only sporadically open, if at all. It is even harder on 12M than 17M to work domestic stations here, as it is perhaps of all bands, the one most devoted strictly to DX.

10M - 48, 136, 6, 31 - Someone once told me that when this band was open, you could work the world with 1 watt and a coat hanger for

an antenna. That was in the depths of a sunspot minimum and it was hard to believe, but as cycle 23 neared its maximum I came to believe. Although I didn't try it, I did find my simple minimal QRP setup provided me with easy QSO's with any part of the world. Contesting in big DX contests on this band is a delight with QRP. In the 3-4 years surrounding a sunspot maximum, the band will provide wall to wall DX in contests from 28000 to 28200 and beyond. It's not as good for long ragchews in most cases as conditions often shift rapidly as I mentioned above. It's fun to call CQ on this band with minimal QRP and get answers from all around the world.

If my band descriptions have not convinced you that the best rig is one that covers 160-10M, and you still are looking for a single band rig, don't forget to check the QRP rigs page on my web site for more info. There you can decide on the other factors (price, etc.) that you need to consider.

Next issue I hope to get back to answering the questions I received in response to my request in a previous column. I also have some info on using military surplus equipment for QRP for a future column. Till next issue, I hope you'll visit my web site at <http://www.alltel.net/~johnshan/> or <http://www.qsl.net/k3wwp/>. Or if you wish to communicate with me, try johnshan@alltel.net or 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. 73 from K3WWP -30-

WELCOME TO THE NEW FISTS

**I am out of space in this issue --
- the continued listing of new
FISTS members will be in Issue
Number Four - Sorry!**

Call Changes and Corrections

#743 Olive was VE7ERA, is now VA6ERA

FISTS 2051, Charles is incorrectly listed as KB4IEU. His callsign is KB5IEU.

8292, K1ES was in correctly listed in the Roster as K1ED

9919, John KG4VZE to K4OP

2016, Bill, N2WF is now K2RIG.

Silent Keys

#4750 W0QIK Thor Lyford of Minnesota
- sorry no details other than he passed
away last September

June Farmer, KA7TIF, #2006 (wife of Stuart, K7WF, 1493) became a Silent Key, 27 March, 2003. She passed away peacefully and her family were there with her. She was at home in Longview, Washington, throughout the time. She and Stuart were both born and raised in Wales.

June did not operate a lot of HF, but was always there to provide contacts for us during any contests and Sprints. She was also active when needed for emergency communications. She held a General Class license back from the time when it took 13 wpm to pass the test. June was a charter member of the Cowlitz FISTS ARC and a long time member of the Lower Columbia Amateur Radio Club.

She and Stu were our very best friends. Up until a few weeks ago we were still going out for Friday night dinner with them and other friends as we had for years. She will be dearly missed. Ed N7CFA

Looks like Spring is finally getting here. The awards list at the end of this column shows that not many awards were given out since the last Keynote. I guess everyone is busy fixing broken antennas from the snow and ice storms of this last winter. I know I have a few antenna projects lined up for spring and summer.

IMPORTANT! One thing you should remember when sending in for FISTS awards. **DO NOT** send in your original log. Please send a copy of your log or if you do wish to send in your original, please make a copy for yourself. There has been one log lost in the mail recently and the person who sent it in did not make a copy of it.

FISTS USA Club Call: From what I hear on the bands, the FISTS USA Club Call, KN0WCW, seems to be a very popular 5-point catch. Lots of stations looking for and working the call for those extra points. Don't forget to keep listening for the other 5 point stations, GXØIPX and ZL6FF, they too will be on the bands.

On The Air: One afternoon in mid-March, I received an award log for a Silver award via e-mail from W4WDA. I processed the award application right away and then decided to get on 20 meter CW for a little operating time. Guess who the very first station was that I heard on 14.058? Yup, W4WDA, so I gave Mike a call and delivered his Silver Award number to him on the air just minutes after he sent it to me via e-mail! Now, you cannot complain much about that service! Hi hi

OK, that's about it for the awards column for this issue. Remember, it doesn't matter if you work for awards or not, what does matter is for you to get on CW and have a good time, enjoy meeting old friends and to make new ones. Have fun and I'll C U on the bands... 73 Dennis K6DF

Award Log Requirements...

For logs sent via e-mail: Please **DO NOT** send any scanned images of your log sheets to me via

e-mail. The attached files are too large and Dupe checking them is very difficult.

The only files I will accept via e-mail are; Text, ASCII, Excel and Microsoft Word files.

*When you send your log in as a Word or Excel file, **DO NOT** paste into the Word or Excel document any scanned images of your log sheets. Word or Excel files that contain scanned images of your log will be rejected.*

*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:
F I S T S A W A R D S @ a t t b i . c o m
Feel free to send questions about awards to this address as well.

Award logs sent by e-mail attachment need not have a "Dupe" sheet as I can sort and Dupe check them in an instant. This does not release you from the responsibility of Dupe checking your electronically submitted log. Several logs sent via e-mail have been rejected because of an over abundance of duplicate numbers.

Any log files sent via e-mail must contain editable text.

All handwritten "Paper" logs of over 100 contacts being submitted for awards will need to have a "Dupe" sheet attached with the log. A simple "Dupe" sheet is explained in the next section below. It is very easy to construct and will allow you to make sure your award log has been properly checked for "Duplicate" FISTS numbers or CC numbers before it is submitted. Paper logs received without a Dupe check sheet will be returned to the sender unprocessed.

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 and if found DELETE them BEFORE you send in your log.

As many of you already know, I try to maintain a fast turn around for awards. This means that your award will be mailed to you within a day or two of my receipt of your log . . . provided that your log contains all the required data and does not have too many dupes.

HOW TO MAKE A DUPE CHECK SHEET

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 deleted all Dupe contacts from your log, add up all the points from the valid contacts and list your total points on your 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.

When applying for the "Century" awards, (Basic Century, Silver, Gold and Diamond) please include a point column in your log as these awards run on a point system. 1 point for contacts in your own country, 2 points for DX contact, and 3 points for working a FISTS affiliated club station. There are three Club Stations that are worth 5 points each, and they are: GXØPIX, KNØWCW, and ZL6FF.

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 Club (CC) numbers collected via on the

air QSO's with FISTS member stations. A CC number may only be used once for Platinum series awards. Example: You earn your Platinum award (100 different CC numbers), you then may add to that award total, 150 more "different" CC numbers to obtain your Platinum 250 award. Same applies for the Platinum 500 award, simply add 250 more "different" CC numbers to your 250 award.

AWARDS ISSUED - Mar 8, 2003 to Apr 4, 2003

Basic Century (CC)

G4PRL
K7UIE
K9PLX
KB4AUK
KC4TVN
KC7NUP
LZ2RS
N2JJE
N9IV
NI5F
VE1ALZ
W4AMW
W8LTX
W8VIJ
WA6CW
WB2WGX
WB6CGJ
WB6SZZ

Silver Century

K3AT
VA3UU

Gold Century

K3AT
VA3UU

Diamond Century

K3AT
WB0PYF

1 X QRP Award

M0AHT
VE1ALZ
VA2MMJ

2 X QRP Award

WB5KHC

Platinum Award

K0KGY
K4SP
K6MGO
KB4WJA
KC7EQW
NQ6C
VA3UU

WAS Award

K0KGY
WB0B

RCC Award

W7PFZ
WA9PWP

Platinum 250 Award

W9FRC
VA2MMJ

Club Call Achievement

K9PL
W8III

Platinum 500 Award

W5AJX

WD9EMF
WS9CAN

FISTS CW CLUB "DOWN UNDER" Newsletter - April 2003

Editor & QSL Manager for ZL: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX, 20 Greenwood Boulevard, R D 1, Otaki 5560, New Zealand
Tel: 0-6-364-5202 e-mail: zl2tx@ianz.co.nz Newsletter Distributor/QSL Manager for VK: Chris Thompson,
VK2MQX, 350a, Old Windsor Road, Old Toongabbie, N.S.W. 2146, Australia. Tel: 0061-2-9636-7730
e-mail: vk2chris@optushome.com.au Membership/Awards Liason: Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH, 12c Herbert Gardens, 186
The Terrace, Wellington 6001, New Zealand Tel: 0-4-473-0847 Fax 0-4-473-0848 e-mail: zl2aoh@ihug.co.nz
QSL Manager for ZL6FF: Chas Dawson, ZL3CED, 26, Taranaki Drive, Woodend, North Canterbury 8255. Visit our
Web Site: <http://fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>

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.

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

Members are reminded that the above frequencies are suggested calling frequencies. If they are busy, it is suggested that once establishing contact with a station, it may be prudent to QSY (change frequency) down the band, avoiding other known clubs calling frequencies, namely +035khz, +052khz, +056khz, and +060khz.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to our new member this month :- **ZL1AYQ-Jim Maindonald-#9602**, who lives in Rotorua, and so is yet another member from Geyserland. We hope to tell you more about Jim in a forthcoming FISTS Down Under.

VK / ZL MEMBERS NEWS

VK7DQ - Jerry # 0957, writes that after a somewhat frustrating half - year, things are stabilising at last. At my age (80), you can expect some physical problems, but I did not expect to end up in hospital twice. The first time after all the tests, I was discharged as they could find nothing wrong with me. The second time, I was referred to a chiropractor. The result was that a vertebra was out of line and has to be regularly, put back into place. On top of it, my neck suffers from "wear and tear". For a few weeks, I was housebound and managed to get back to my stamp collection, my other hobby. To those that have sent me stamps - many thanks.

VK2MQX - Chris # 9057, David VK3DBD recently sent me an excellent homebrew paddle and an electronic keyer. I have spent some time getting acquainted with the paddle but I think it will be a long time before I can send a good drop of Morse with it, HI.

ZL1AZE - Brian # 9078, recently made a brief visit to Tokyo on business. **Mack JE1CLH # 9012**, who lives about 90 minutes away travelled into the city to meet Brian and together, they enjoyed a Japanese meal and a good eyeball QSO.

VK2ER - Ross # 9072, has a new e-mail address - rwilson@netconnect.com.au <<mailto:rwilson@netconnect.com.au>>. His correct telephone number is +61-2-6365-3123.

ZL3CED - Charlie # 9039, has been working some good DX from Woodend, North Canterbury, including 9M2/J11ETU (West Malaysia) and J37LR (Grenada.) He has also had some success in airing the new Club Call Sign ZL6FF and giving a few members those extra 5 points for their awards.

Chas was promoted recently and has changed office. This means that he is no longer able to photo copy the newsletters for our postal recipients. Investigations are underway to secure another photocopy source or even purchase a second hand photo - copier. (Thank you for your past excellent efforts Chas from, Ralph and Nigel) - Note that Chas will still be the QSL Manager for ZL6FF the Club Station.

ZL4PO - Lester # 9044, operating from Redwood Valley, Nelson, was delighted to hook STORY (Southern Sudan) on 30 metres. A very rare one indeed and reported active around 10.102MHz around 0324UTC onwards. Listening up 3 + khz.

ZL2TX - Nigel # 9040, reports a successful luncheon was had by all, that attended at his home to meet David, G3KMG # 0124 and his wife Rita plus their American friends John and Gail. This was followed by a visit to a well known "Heather" garden and a visit to the Kapiti Coast Museum in Waikanae so that David, could view the vast collection of Radio equipment of yesteryear, including various HRO models, the late Jock White's (ZL2GX) collection of Collins receivers and transmitters, and the large collection of Morse Keys. I hope to be able to obtain the photographs taken by David in the near future. Special thanks are due to Max Kempson, ZL4VV, for opening up the museum at short notice.

ZL1BRS - Syd # 9013, has been QRT since the end of November because of the turmoil associated with shifting house once again. He reports that he has now settled in Middlemarch and hopes to be back on the air just as soon as the important things like the garden and pot plants get sorted out. Apparently the television, F.M. and A.M. broadcast reception is pretty lousy with no local radio or repeater stations in this funny little town. (Sounds ominous from a QRM point of view - Ed). Syd, goes on to say that he is pleased to see the FISTS crowd extending with the new members and sends his regards to Ken - ZL1BEG # 9098 who he met at Iirangi Naval Radio / ZLO many years ago.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS NEWS

G3CWW - Tony # 0595, reports on the one that got away! He managed to raise the New Zealand Club Station, ZL6FF on 10.1MHz, however when Chas (ZL3CED) replied with his report and details, Tony received nothing tangible other than the call sign. A few minutes after we started a huge tuning signal, around 30db over S9, appeared zero beat. I asked the culprit twice to QSY - no response. A few seconds later he sent QRL ? and two nanoseconds later sent a long CQ which was answered by a YO station, who to his eternal credit told the DL to QSY because he was interrupting DX. That he did, but only far enough to ensure that I then got his key - clicks (some DL's are licensed to use 1kW) - so I was trying to copy in the breaks. He goes on to say " there are lots of Europeans USING 1kW, but I am not sure how many are licensed to do so! I know that there are Swedish stations, and I suspect that a large majority of the former "Yugoslav" people and

others in ex-East Europe countries are using military or ex - military gear in that power range. I know of several in LY and LZ." (Better luck next time Tony - I guess we don't know how lucky we are, having a relatively QRM free environment! - Ed) F3WT - Pierre # 8916, writes that due to a change in job that he has not been too active recently. However, he did try to contact a few VK and ZL stations during the BERU Contest, with no result, receiving replies that only Commonwealth members are entitled to participate!

He says "No wonder the bands here are very quiet during this contest and no pile-up's heard on those usually quite difficult to work "down under" call signs. At times like these I wish I had a British call!

(I have since replied to Pierre, advising him of the history and rules of the Commonwealth Contest, suggesting that he would be better waiting until October, and joining in the "Oceania Contest", when VK / ZL work the World. - Ed)

N0EAX-Rich # 8847, wrote from Jefferson City, Missouri. He was having problems accessing FISTS "Down Under", as Bill Gates' Outlook Express was blocking him from his file attachments. With a little e-mail coaching from Down Under the problem was overcome and he can now read his newsletters and other attachments. Another happy customer!

M3NHY - Keith # 8989, in an E-mail says he will be listening most mornings between 0700 and 0900 UTC on or around 14.058MHz for VK / ZL members.

PROFILE - Brian - VK5BSC # 9601

(Received via VK2MQX)

Brian, born 1934 in the Midlands of the UK, a place called Walsall. Went away to sea at the age of 17. Started as Deck Boy and after a career lasting 16 years, rose to the dizzy heights of Able Seaman, shows a distinct lack of ambition, but I enjoyed every minute of it. I did try a bit of CW when at sea. There was a friendly radio officer (sparky) on a ship called the Argolib, a tramp freighter, but it was a short trip and I didn't get very far with the CW. It did spark an interest though. Hi. Left the sea in 1966 and spent a few months hill-walking in Scotland and Wales. Got married in 1967 and emigrated to Australia in 1968. Joined the railways in Adelaide in 1969, moved to Snowtown in 1971 and then to Peterborough in 1975. The railways removed their operations from Peterborough and consequently I became redundant in 1988, retiring at the age of 55 on a superannuated pension. Gained a pass in the exam for a Novice Amateur Licence Certificate in November 1988, two months after I retired. Passed the Full Call Exam in 1990. Became a widower in October 2001. I have a keen interest in CW but confine my operations to local ragchewing. At present I only have an antenna for operations on 80mx. (Nigel - Brian has also sent me a donation of stamps - VK2MQX).

PROFILE - Mike - ZL1MH # 9038

Mike, born and raised in Barbados in the Caribbean, was taken by his parents to England at the age of 14. Attended Colwyn Bay radio college 1952 - 1952 gaining a P.M.G. 2nd Class certificate. Became G3JPQ by way of this certificate in January 1954 and went away to sea the same month at age 17.

Sailed under several flags, got married in India whilst on an Indian ship. Returned to live in England until 1960 and during a spell ashore got caught up in the National Service. Couldn't live on the pay, so very stupidly signed - on in the Royal Air Force. Hated it from the word go and finally bought myself out in 1965. Meanwhile, gained two daughters - both born in Singapore.

Returned to sea in 1965 for one year, followed by 18 months ashore as Marine Tech Assistant with Marconi's in Avonmouth. Went broke and returned to sea! Stayed at sea there until the end of 1970, all the time on ESSO tankers.

Came to New Zealand with the Union Steamship Company in January 1971, and stayed with them until 1988 when I accepted voluntary redundancy and finally came ashore.

Held the call sign ZL1BLJ from 1971 until 1988 and lived in Auckland until 1986, when we bought this 9 Acre block here in the South Hokianga. In 1988 I became ZL1MH. Along the way I was also VS1LU and 9M4LU.

Apart from my 1200 ft - circumference horizontal loop, we also grow macadamias (508 trees, all grafted by ourselves). Amateur equipment comprises of the main rig a Yaesu FT1000MP MkV, also have an Omni VI and an old TS930. Have built (and used) two K2's (one 100 watt version and one for QRP). I am also a member of FOC, SOWP, G-QRP-C and QRP - ARCI, and try to be on the bands every day (CW Only, apart from the occasional venture onto the local FM repeaters) Although my mail address is Kaikohe (29km away), the actual QTH is Waima, a small South Hokianga settlement about half way between Kaikohe and Oponini on State Highway 12.

80m FISTS Chat Net

The net has now been going for two months and quite a few members have called in for a rag chew. Participating stations include: George-VK2DLF, Henry-VK2OM, Alex-VK2KET, Chris-VK3CGB, Dave-VK3FGE and George-VK4XY. We have also had at least three non-members join in, who are also keen CW operators. The main topic of conversation is about Morse code - of course! So if you can spare some time on a Thursday evening we would enjoy hearing you on the net. Net time: 0930z Thursday 3.545MHz

QRP ON THE HIGH SEAS

By Ron AC7AC (Per favour ZL2BCW-Mike-#9079 & others)

Working on ships in port, I met a lot of radio operators and heard a lot of stories.

One Sparky told me about the night they steamed around in circles in the middle of the Pacific looking for a lifeboat sending an SOS with its hand-cranked emergency radio. He got out his logs and went over the entries with me as he related the events.

It started when Sparky was knocked out of a sound sleep by the large bell on the wall right above his bunk. It was part of an automated system that monitored 500 kHz for a series of long dashes that are the beginning of any SOS. They got a lot of false alarms due to QRN, but the 500 kHz watch was a duty carefully followed no matter what. That night Sparky stumbled thorough the door into the radio room which, by law, was directly adjacent to where he slept, and turned on the main receiver, prepared to hear the QRN crashes that set off the alarm again.

Instead he was met with a clear, unmistakable S-O-S repeated over and over followed by a ships call sign, then the four long dashes to set off the 'automatic alarms' and the SOS again. It was the clearly the "code wheel": automatic CW sent by a turning wheel with raised bumps that closed contacts to send the CW characters. The code wheels were used in two

places. In the lifeboat transmitters so they could be operated by anyone whether they knew CW or not, and in the emergency transmitter in the CW console so Sparks could start it when they abandoned ship and the transmitter would continue to pound out the SOS until she went down.

He notified the Captain and they immediately started taking a fix. All ships carried a Radio Direction Finder on the navigating bridge just for this purpose. If there is no one listening at the other end the direction finder was the only to know where they were. The signal was fairly strong and they were hopeful the ship was not too far away. If it was a lifeboat radio its radio only ran a few watts, and feeding into a whip or even a kite antenna was about like feeding a QRP signal into a into a short "rubber ducky" antenna on 40 meters! They were very short range indeed.

They followed the signal until the direction finder began to shift rapidly meaning they were virtually on top of them. But no one on the ship could spot any sign of a lifeboat in the darkness. They sounded their whistle, then listened for replies. They used searchlights, but saw only waves. And hour passed, then two, as they steamed in circles. The signal continued as dawn approached. Then it stopped.

Confused, concerned and disappointed to have lost the signal, the Captain ordered Sparky to contact shore stations on the short wave links immediately and inform them of a ship down somewhere nearby. As soon as he made contact the mystery was solved.

That night the ship they had head had, indeed, gone down. The crew had taken to lifeboats and one of those lifeboats used the hand-cranked 500 kHz emergency transmitters to send the SOS that had knocked Sparks out of his sleep and sent the ship to their aid.

But it wasn't in the middle of the Pacific. It was in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea! And the crew had been rescued. That was when the signal was silenced.

Some quirk of propagation had allowed those miniscule watts of RF that on 500 kHz were lucky to travel 50 miles, travel half way around the world and produce a phantom signal in the Pacific Ocean.

HOAX VIRUS WARNING

There is a hoax 'virus warning' around at the moment. The E-mail asks you to delete a file: <jdbmrg.exe> from your system, by explaining about 'teddy logos etc' and asks you to send it to everybody in your address book. IGNORE the email message...you will only delete a legitimate file from your windows system. This is why your virus protection didn't alert you! The <C:\win\system\jdbmrg.exe> is in everyone's computer for a file management process...with a teddy bear logo... I know! I was caught in June last year with an 'genuine email' from a good friend...now there's another one arrived in my computer...from a good friend! Hi If you have been caught...just ask for someone to send you the file as an attachment and re-install it in your computer. - Thanks N.Z.D.X. Reflector.

ZL6QH - QUARTZ HILL - ANNUAL REPORT

Brian, ZL1AZE # 9078, kindly forwarded a copy of his Quartz Hill Annual Report in which he writes - Our "Radio Playground" at Quartz Hill is now 6 years old and continues to be a source of challenge and enjoyment for everyone involved - whether it be contesting, working DX, social events, experimenting with antennas, maintenance "challenges" or just being out in the rugged coastal environment. Briefly here are some of the highlights for 2002

- Further LF transmissions were made on 137khz with signals being received by at least 7 U.S.A. Stations.
- Two 6 element beams have been installed for 10 metres, one aimed at the U.S.A. and one on Japan and the short path to Europe.
- Two successful BBQ "open days" - one in September and another in January. Both attracted a good number of visitors from around the region.
- ZL6QH has now made around 76,000 QSOs with 21,500 being logged in the last 12 months. (Up from 17,500 in 2001). The total number of QSL cards sent out is 14,634. Inward QSLs are arriving at a rate of more than 300 per month. We are very grateful to Ralph, ZL2AOH (ZL6QH trustee and QSL Manager) for managing this HUGE task.
- Unfortunately we lost the ZL6QH web site after the server provider went bust. We are still trying to restore this site.
- Finances - We are budgeting for the same level of income in 2003 but expect expenditure to be reduced to \$2,000. So we are expecting a net loss of around \$400. The supporter levels will remain at the same level as in 2002, i.e. \$30 for WARC members and \$50 for non WARC members.
- Clearly we cannot afford to continue operating at a loss with the limited funds in the bank. We are looking for new initiatives to boost support and income in 2003. There were 25 financial supporters in January 2003, 5 less than the previous year, so we are keen to find ways to encourage more supporters to join up.
- Finally thank you to everyone involved for your support in 2003 - in particular Meridian Energy, the Quartz Hill Supporters Group, Yaesu and Nobu, JF3KNW for the ZL6QH colour QSL cards and the Quartz Hill management committee (Mike, ZL2BCW, Doug ZL2AOV, Andrew ZL2BBJ, Bob ZL2CA, Wilbert ZL2BSJ, Bob ZL2AMI, Brian ZL1AZE and Ralph ZL2AOH. Brian Miller, ZL1AZE, Chair of Quartz Hill Management Committee.

(For those interested supporting this team and receiving a full copy of the report, please send a SAE to Nigel, ZL2TX address in header - Ed)

PHOTOCOPIER

Ralph, ZL2AOH has successfully purchased a second hand Sharp photocopier for the club and delivered it to Nigel, ZL2TX only the other day. With it came various coloured toners, which when used up will be replaced. The first run was for the "Keynote" and your being treated to a brown toner. Unfortunately this ran out and half our postal recipients will be treated to blue and brown copies! Wait until I try Green or Red Toners, Hi ! The aim of course, is to keep costs to a minimum for the benefit of our members.

Eventually we will only have black toners and hopefully the machine will be paid off within a year. Like all printers and photocopiers, things can get a bit messy with the granules from the toner getting everywhere, much to the disgust of my XYL Christine. Luckily the machine is located in my "Ham Shack", but not near the rig! Once I have mastered the cleaning and maintenance of such a machine I should be able to reproduce good quality copies for our postal customers. In the meantime, bear with me if some copies are not to the standard you are used to. Good things - take time, to quote the famous cheese advertisement! 73's de Nigel, ZL2TX.



KEY NOTE



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

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

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

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW

32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh

3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY

CONTEST MANAGER: M5AGL

15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

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>](mailto:fistsawards@attbi.com)

written logs to HQ.

April 2003

GREETINGS

My goodness! Mid March and not only have we had temps in excess of 10c but some of the local bird population have been avidly foraging for nesting materials. It is a good sign indeed for an early spring.

This prospect however appears to be at odds with recent band conditions when my favourite 15m produced some very unwelcome quitefulness. 20 also although open to Asia for brief periods was the exact opposite of 15 with the sound of frying bacon uppermost. Early morning on 40m they tell me has been producing some good DX though unhappily for yours truly, I am rarely at one with the world at such an hour. Still, when the opportunity presents itself, I find my-self in good company on that band with much ribbing and lamp swinging and that - for me at least - is what it is all about. Hi.

Again I must ask those of you taking advantage of our email service to be sure that your addresses in Andy's book are correct. We again had a raft of bouncers and this is costing much time and postage since on many occasions, the telephone number listed here at HQ is no longer valid and obliges me to send out written requests for updates via snail mail.

MYSTERY RIG!

Re the inquiry by ON7OP in INFO REQUIRED The equipment shown is the AN/URR-13 or the AN/URR-35. If I could read the frequency adjust dial in the photo, I could tell you which. These were crystal controlled UHF > (-13) or VHF (-35) AM receivers dating from the 1950s. I have worked on them myself. They were used a lot for ship-to-ship or ship-to-plane communications then. Good equipment. Fair Radio Sales of Lima, OH sells original or repro manuals for them. Fair also has a website (just do a browser search on FAIR RADIO). Let me know if I can help more.

AI KG6TH (FISTS 9336)

Re my last on the AN/URR-13/35, now that I'm thinking about it, both the 13 and 35 were UHF AM. The VHF version was the AN/URR-27.

There you are then Phil.. Took some time but we got the info in the end and what a helpful fellow is AI.

SILENT KEY

In Mid March, I received a telephone call from the daughter of G0KHI saying that he had suffered a fatal heart attack. Those who knew him will be aware that Bill resided in Spain and I assume that Valencia will be his final resting place.

WALLPAPER NEEDED!

Chuck, M0AVW seems to have had something of a disaster since he indicates that some 900 QSL cards which hitherto graced his shack wall were irretrievably lost.

He asks that you search back in your logs and if possible repeat any new-band QSLs you may have sent him.

Irrespective of what happened to his cards, he seems to be improving somewhat since on our last QSO (40m) he identified the HQ station without prompting!

MORE FROM F5NQL

JQ1EYN/6, Nobu, will be on Komaka Island (AS-017) from April 27 to 28

He plans to be on 80-6M SSB and CW.

Website: <http://www.chinenmarine.co.jp/local/komaka.htm> QSL via JARL or direct to his home call.

MARTINIQUE - Main Island - NA107 - DIFO MN001. Look for Bernard, F5LBG to be active for one month starting March 13th from Martinique isl (IOTA NA-107 - DIFO MN-001), as FM/HC

Activity from 80 to 6 m. CW. QSL HC bureau or direct (+postage) to DAUVIER Bernard, 20 chemin des Mottes, F26760 BEAUMONT LES VALENCE, FRANCE

Maurice scans all manner of news sources and also comes up with the following:

Reaching Alaska from the United Kingdom using just 1 W ERP is quite a feat for any band, but the Radio Society of Great

Britain reports that Laurie Mayhead, G3AQC, was heard in Alaska on 136 kHz. In the early hours of February 15, he transmitted to Laurence Howell, GM4DMA/KLIX in Anchorage, and just before UK dawn at 0615 his call sign was clearly identified using software to read the signal.

G3AQC was using QRSS--very slow CW--with a 60-second-long dit. The 7278-km distance is a transmission record for 1 W ERP on 136 kHz.

Two years ago, Mayead and Larry Kayser, VA3LK, made ham radio history when they completed the first two-way transatlantic exchange on 136 kHz, also using very slow speed CW. Last year G3AQC became the first person to span the Atlantic on 73 kHz.

Also a timely reminder:

In all the next EUCW contests as Frat party (November), EUCW 160m (January) and the QRS CW Week (April), don't forget to count as multiplier, the Croatian Telegraphy Club (CTC). CTC has been a new EUCW member since the 1st of January 2003:

The founder and current leader is :

9A3FO Den 9a3fo@hi.hinet.hr

You can become a Croatian Telegraphy Club member and contribute to CW development using ; it's free if you request is going to Den by Internet.

See you down my EUCW club members log and 73.

And also a snippet from ARRL:

from QRZ.COM

Bill Pierpont, age 88, became a Silent Key Feb 20, 2003. As many of you know, Bill Pierpont was the author of *The Art & Skill of Radio-Telegraphy*. His generous gesture of distributing this book freely on the Internet and printed at no profit to himself, allowed this inspirational and educational publication to be enjoyed by hams all over the world. It has been translated and published in several languages. He made a major contribution to Amateur Radio and will be sorely missed.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NIL

A suggestion that the RA revise the call sign allocation (everyone would have a brand new call sign if this procedure was followed) caused much muttering and cursing. David (G3ZPF) particularly, was blowing bubbles in his beer and after emailing the RA for their reaction to the suggestion received the following email:

The Agency has no plans to change existing call-signs.
Denise

Short and to the point of course and as he himself remarked, "At least they answer their emails promptly".. Fear not... your unique personal identity group is not in jeopardy.

THE IN-BOX

I rang Martin Lynch to check that they had my chosen morse key in stock before I set-off for the smoke. Lynchie said that morse keys are like rocking-horse poo at the moment!. According to him:

1. The manufacturer, falling for the 'morse is dead' myth, has reduced production runs and stock levels.
2. Many of the more pompous 'old guard' have started to return to CW, rather than share SSB bandspace with the dreaded M3s, so sales have risen.
3. Then the British Army suddenly cleaned-out Lynchie's stock of lightweight Hi-Mounds (to the tune of 100 keys) and sent them all out to the Gulf!

So, looks like I will be hammering away on 'The Mighty Kent' during SKW :-). Strange days indeed. Chris G4PDJ
From M5AAQ/M0ZAK

In reference to GW4KUS and his episode with RF getting in to the shack, I had a similar experience recently when any signal I put out on 20m caused the mouse pointer to 'dance' around the screen until it got bored or tired at which point it stopped. . . . unfortunately so did the program running at the time. I found the cause to be a mouse lead extension that, when added to the original mouse lead, came to a total length of 5m [1/4 wave on 20] . . . to remedy this I had to move my computer to a position that allowed me to do away with the extension lead. Everything here is earthed up so am not getting much in the way of interference now. . .

G0FOD

Hi George Nev here G0FOD fists 308 I have been out of the country lazing in the sun for the past 2 months, laying by the pool listening to our members on my sony receiver, some very nice qso's BUT we have a rival club or society who also have a cc number. This group is calling itself FISB I don't know what the letters stand for but I think it has something

to do with the equestrian society as they all have a NAG interesting they are both sides of the pond!!!! Nev.

G3ZDD

I would like you top, put something in Keynote about people not listening on a frequency before calling. It may be acceptable from a newcomer who is not familiar with polite operating practise, but when the offender is a member and advertises the fact by calling "Fists", is a but bad. I was working someone today when M0CHL David came on the QRG calling Fists. He was dead zero beat with the station I was working, in consequence I lost the other station. I said please QSY as the frequency is in use, David sent ? and QRZ I then said pse qsy. qrg in use. He then proceeded to call Fists again using G3CRC the Clacton - on - Sea club call. I had a QSO with him and told him about not listening on the freq. He just came back and said "Tnx fer the QSO, cuagn 73" so I feel that a gentle word in Keynote about not listening first may help.

I've got problems. I've had angina for a few years now, but it's under control. I've also got cataracts in both eyes, but hopefully I'll get those sorted in November. It's a quick job, apparently one is in and out in about 1/2 hour.

G4LHI

Looking on the USA Fists Home Page I came across another very interesting Award, and great fun trying to fill in all the 260 squares. Its called the NANFY AWARD "nightmare-alpha-numerical-fists-yearly-award"

Runs from Jan 1st to Dec 31st each year. 2003 is the first year. I do not think I stand an earthly chance of filling all the 260 squares in the year but quite a nice challenge! and great fun.

GM0ERV

Another Easter greeting for you. The Greek greeting is. Kalo Pasca (Easter Sunday being 27th April) and the accent is on the "o" of Kalo and the first "a" of Pasca.

Hope you and Ivy are well. We have had a good winter with a wonderful February and hardly any snow. Looking forward to spring and a holiday in Rhodes at end of May and maybe Barcelona to visit a daughter before that.

SWL MARCO

This evening I was listening to the contacts made by RA2FB around 14.020 and at the same time I was downloading the Feb 03 sample copy of Keynote. I kept reading the magazine and found a note about G14CFQ and his activity on 20m with an old FT200 and a sloper: I found it very interesting as I was listening with an ancient FT250, Sommerkamp's twin of the Yaesu FT 200. Suddenly, I realized next station calling back was G14CFQ, Gary from Belfast, who declared the FT 200 and 50w... nice coincidence, isn't it? BTW, the rig was doing a great job and I had a 599 copy here in N. Italy, on Como Lake.

JJ1BDX

My name is Kenji 'Joe' Rikitake, JJ1BDX/3, also K1BDX since March 18th. I would appreciate if you add my newly-effective callsign K1BDX to the FISTS member list as #8962. My home callsign is still JJ1BDX though.

CALL CHANGE

Jim, M5AAQ is now M0ZAK. This change was effective from October 2001 seemingly but I guess he just forgot to let me know or I missed it. Heck.. we will soon be running out of M0 space if this continues. Hi.

FOR THE YOUNGER ONES!

Those of us born pre 1930 are described in a slip from G0GSQ as "the survivors" and includes:

Consider the changes we have witnessed. We were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen food, Xerox, plastic contact lenses, frisbees and the pill. We preceeded radar, credit cards, laser beams, ballpoint pens, pantyhose, dish washers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothing and Moon walking. We got married and lived together before we had children - how quaint. In our time, closets were for coming out of, designer jeans were scheming girls and having a meaningful relationship meant getting on well with our cousins. We hit the scene when there was a Woolworths where you bought things for

3 to 6 pence including reading glasses (6 pence per lens) with free frames so for one shilling you got a do-it-yourself readability test.

In our days, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, coke was a cold drink, pot was something you cooked in, rock music was grannies lullaby and aids were helpers. We were not before the difference between sexes was discovered but before sex changes - we made do with what we had.

No wonder we are so confused and that there is such a 'generation gap' today but..... we survived!

I like it and simply had to share it with you. George is having a little trouble with a guy named Arthur Ritus but aren't most of us in his generation? Moral, physical and presumably emotional support from daughter Elaine (G0KZH) who seemingly introduced him to the PC and will now be regretting it.

US SPRINTS

Must hold up my hands. Never was quite sure what these were and pictured a grassed track with hams clutching their rigs and heading for a finishing tape. However, there are quite a few of them which I had thought were strictly domestic. To dispel any suspicions that I am partisan, I will keep you up to speed when information comes to hand since Nancy and the US gang appear anxious that join in the fun.



How would you like to meet this lot in a dark alley?

LADDER

Sunday Ladder Feb 2003.

ANNUAL TOTALS

Call	Fist No	Points
G4LHI 2219	137	
G3VQO 874	131	
G4AQZ 7768	129	
M5ABN 6423	116	
M5AGL 6493	64	
G0MRH 1327	50	
M0DRK 8344	39	
HB9CHE	7757	37
M0RHB 8907	37	
OH7QR 8318	34	
M0AY1 4844	31	
M0CMQ	7701	19
GW0SGG	1602	17
M3GBT 8947	7	
M0BRY 8345	6	
M3XGQ 8949	4	

A nice set of returns for February with several entrants working the Cromer Club station G3CRC operated by David M0CAL. (perhaps we could have a log from you next time David).

It's a tie for the top spot this month with G4AQZ Geoff and G4LHI Peter both having 72 points closely followed by G3VQO Les 61 points and M5ABN Peter 59 points, many thanks for all your support. 73 de Bob M5AGL.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G0LWI. As a confirmed professional layabout, Frank has found more time for radio during the last 15 months though some of it is taken up by a 97 year old Ma-in-law currently in care. **G4VLW.** Roger is intent upon rectifying his recent spell of low activity with regular rag-chews if only to exercise the bug key. **G3LWT.** And John was tickled pink when he was called by our maritime friend Theo, M0HEN/MM. Thinking along the lines of most merchant vessels don't carry a sparks these days, he was appraised of the fact that Theo's position on board far exceeded that of a lowly R/O. Now I would never have guessed that John since Theo never mentioned it, so he has been hiding his light beneath a bushel all this time. Hi. **G0WAS.** Anticipating activity during the Morse Examiners weekend with GB0BFD, Alan re

grets his poor level of activity during the past couple of years. Justified I suspect since he has so far had 2 operations and six weeks of daily radiotherapy with confirmed cancer in right leg. Thus far there have been no adverse reports from his quarterly x-ray sessions on the lungs though walking is painful and even sitting is far from comfortable. No matter what Alan, my serious advice to you is to get a replacement for the little Yorky you sadly lost - as you know I speak from experience. **G0BQV.** Mary is looking to erect a new R6000 vertical in place of the R5 which divided itself into two last year. Dunno how long it has been in bed but she tells me it remains unpacked at the time of writing. **SM5JAB.** Miche doesn't get on air as much as he would wish but when he does it is FISTS members who provide him with rag-chews - 'they always seem so very friendly'. **M0GMF.** In view of the recent spate of good weather, I hope that Mel has fulfilled his resolve to 'get up on the roof' and stretch out his G5RV. He has recently done a QSY and is told that his QTH is the highest point in West Yorkshire which of course carries the penalty of being one of the most wind-ridden. Hope you can rent a harness and line just in case Mel.

FOR SALE

Bill, GM0KMG, must have been collecting 'em for ages and has recently been doing a bit of 'tidying up' and finds he has copies of *Morsum Magnificat* issues 1 to 83 all in good condition - £90 incl postage. Also, SPRAT numbers 45 to 112 at £45. You may contact Bill on 0141-5624571.

THAT 'K' SERIES

Among other members to air the K1 and K2 I recently found G0VQW on 40m with a K1 and whilst the sigs were not exactly needle bending, he explained that he had just soldered the last point and the rig was not even in its case. It lived up to its reputation with a beautiful T9 note which never strayed from the (approximately) 100Hz band pass that the conditions demanded. His closing words 'Can't wait to get started on the K2'. The way things are going, we are gonna find a 'K club' any time soon. Hi.

COMMORATIVE EVENT

As with every year, the SFDXAG will activate from 5 through 8 June 2003 from the "PEGASUS BRIDGE" memorial museum with the call F/ON6JUN/P in memory of D-DAY in all bands and all modes.

QSL via bureau or directly via ON4AFU

Visit our site: <http://www.qsl.net/on6jun>

The SFDXAG is thanking you in advance for your kind cooperation.

Yours sincerely, For the SFDXAG Willy LAMBERT ON4LBV

SUBS

Whilst I applaud their thoughtfulness in anticipating the renewal date, we still have a few members who cause much head scratching and file searching by forgetting to include their calls signs with their renewals. Also, although easily remedied, cheques should not be made out to me personally but simply to FISTS. On my last visit to the bank, the teller was so used to the routine that she pulled out one such cheque and appended FISTS to the reverse. Again for email subscribers, I will normally run a check on due dates and advise you by email.

THE ATTIC COAXIAL ANTENNA

There were a number of requests for this information but thus far no reports. These would really be appreciated if those who requested the information would like to drop me a line. It would also be appreciated if those who constructed the Mag Loop by G4KKI (Feb Keynote, pp3) could let me know how they fared.

POWER LINE TECHNOLOGY

Had a letter from PA0HPV who works for the PA government and is heavily involved in defending shortwave communications against the big threat posed by Power Line Technology. He is in regular contact with G4JKS within the international fora endeavouring to establish 'sensible' limits for the PLT network radiation. They are fighting against a powerful lobby with the PLT industry who are trying to get their system up and running with as few constraints as possible.

In Holland, a power company (NUON) offers fast internet access with its PLT network operating in one of Arnhem's suburbs. The noise it radiates blocks all amateur shortwave reception in the frequency range 3 - 17 MHz along the streets where the mains is carrying PLT signals even if no PLT modem is installed in the house of the amateur suffering the interference.

Radio Amateur Societies, HF broadcasters, the Military and low power HF users (including a manufacturer of Electronic Anti-shoplifting systems) have teamed up in the European HF Users Group to act against PLT.

Unfortunately, the European Commission thinks PLT will offer great business opportunities and they are promoting experiments with PLT to let it prove that it could become a viable and cheap alternative to existing ways of getting broadband internet services to the home (e.g. ADSL).

They still seem to think that HF radio belongs to the past or is economically unimportant and do not seem too concerned about the interference issue.

The Military needs HF comms desperately as an independent means of communication as long as a Military owned/controlled world wide satellite network is not available.

The group has many more difficult meetings to come yet and Henk himself is very worried about the outcome. Henk points out that in an environment polluted by PLT noise, narrow band techniques like CW and PSK31 have a distinct advantage over SSB though he visualises the need for much more power being required in the future than at present. In this respect also he says, CW is far from dead.

NEW PRINTER

There is now a new laser at HQ which is helping lighten my load enormously. It is a Brother HL1850 with duplex unit and sufficient memory for a complete listing. No more standing to attention on a sheet by sheet basis. I simply say 'go to it son', press a key and pull out a complete duplexed listing in short order. The old HP4V having capacity for A3 as opposed to the Brothers' A4 still serves to print the paper plates for the offset press and as such is used only once a month. It is an ungainly brute however and for a couple of weeks, it was balanced on an old dining chair until I managed to find a stand cum stationery storage.

FINALE

From Nancy I learn that there will be a sprint (non-specific) 2nd Saturday in May so I will endeavour to print a copy of the rules next month. It was initially assumed that these events were domestic to the US but I am assured that this is not so.

A broken spring caused me to investigate the lower blanket cavity of the offset press (on which Keynote is printed) where I discovered an inscribed pen (legend G3ZQS) which to my recollection disappeared over 5 years ago. Needless to say, the insert is most definitely nbg but the mystery is how it came to be in my cellar let alone finding its way to the innards of the press. Do I really have poltergeist? We are having problems however. The off-set press is giving grave problems and for this month at least, I have had to farm the job out to a local printer.

To be honest with you, it has been getting a big chore. Printing, collating and folding Keynote and then stuffing it into envelopes, printing and affixing labels etc., costs me at least 5 days so I may well let the professionals handle it permanently.

73/88 for now people. CU on the bands and stay sober.

Geo

***APPLY FOR AN OPERATING AWARD?** For ALL awards, send the name of the award, a log of the required info and dupe sheet (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.

***VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODEBUDDY?** **W3GR**, The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club members are the volunteers handling the Code Buddy program. Contact them at Box 746 MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203 or email w3gr@arrl.net <w3gr@arrl.net> We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! Code Buddy applications are available on line from a link on our web page <http://www.fists.org>

***GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BUREAU?** Send Self-Addressed-Stamped -Envelopes and FISTS member cards, for both DX and USA FISTS members, to Stan Reas, K4UK, at 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA, 24121. On your SASE's put your callsign in big letters in the top left corner. Detailed info on how to use the Bureau and a list of FISTS who do not want to receive cards via the Bureau are on the FISTS web page or available from Stan by email (k4uk@rev.net) or postal mail upon request.

***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, BB3 2LZ England, he will get in touch with them and 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 American cash. Non-European (Africa, Japan, etc.) 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. 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.

***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 Keynote 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. The tapes is read by Roger Cameron, N8KV and copied and distributed by Ken W8ROG.

***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. A scan of the club card is on our web page <http://www.fist.org>

***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 NEW FRIENDS?** 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.

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

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

Coming up:

MAY SPRINT : 2nd Saturday in May

Dayton Hamvention: FISTS Get-Together Friday Night

Field Day - Last full weekend in June

