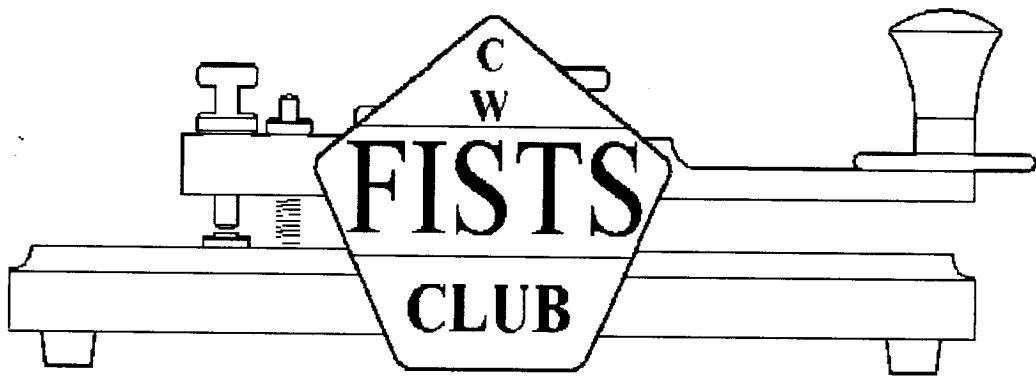


The Keynote



Further the use of Morse code

Engender friendships among members

Encourage newcomers to use Morse code

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

North American Memo

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club

The International Morse Preservation Society

When you have a question about FISTS, go to the source for the correct answer.

Posting a question on a chat room or email reflector may result in a lot of opinions, but your best bet is to ask a FISTS volunteer, look in the reference issue, or on our web page <http://www.fists.org>

Please put the word 'FISTS' somewhere in the title of your email. This will help the volunteer recognize that your email is important and not spam.

For questions about:

**North American Awards and Certificates contact
Dennis Franklin, K6DF, fistsawards@comcast.net**

**The QSL Bureau contact
Stan Reas, K4UK, k4uk@rev.net or see <http://www.fistsburo.org/>**

**Reserve a time to operate KN0WCW from your home! Contact our club call trustee.
Karl Zuege, KB1DSB, kb1dsb@sover.net.**

**The membership roster, call changes, name changes contact
Ed Hayes, N7CFA, n7cfa@msn.com**

**To get an application or sample Keynote sent to a friend contact
Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, aa9ls@turbotoads.com**

**Web page changes, getting your personal or club webpage linked, etc contact
Webmaster Bill Myers, KK4KF, kk4kf@cox.net**

**Club presentation packets contact
Joe Spencer, KK5NA, kk5na@kk5na.com**

**To change or include your email address on the FISTS email list contact
Kathi Hilton, N0FKA, fistelist@comcast.net (note no "s" in fistelist)**

**Code Buddy volunteers and buddies contact
Nick Yokanovich, K3NY, & The Historical Electronics Museum ARC w3hem@arri.net**

**Sprints contact
Dan Sheperd, N8IE, W8PIG@yahoo.com**

**Get Your Feet Wet Weekend and G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest contact
Lee Hallin, N7NU, hallinl@lanecc.edu**

Membership Renewal/New Membership/Keynote (Renewals = \$15/year unless you are 80+ or 18-, then renewals are free. Students over 18 are \$10. Paypal to fists@tir.com. Renewal checks made out to FISTS go to Nancy at FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440.

All other questions, including supplies, tapes for the blind, address changes, general membership questions and articles for the Keynote contact Nancy Kott WZ8C, nancy@tir.com; PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440, phone 810-797-2033, fax 810-797-5808.

FISTS CW CLUB

THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

EDITOR:

NANCY KOTT WZ8C PO Box 47 HADLEY MI 48440

NANCY@TIR.COM PHONE: (810) 797-2033 FAX (810) 797-5808

Hi FISTS!

I hope everyone had a good holiday season. This Keynote is very late, I was tempted to skip it and use the material for Issue 2, 2008 (Issue 1 is the Reference Issue) and then be one up on 2008, but that didn't seem right. So, I filled it up as chock-full as I could. There is a big discussion about the "Do we abbreviate too much?" question - there were a few, three, I think, letters that I could not print because they got garbled because of the format used to forward them to me, and I didn't know who had written them, so I couldn't ask for a re-send. So, if you don't see your letter here, please send it to me again and I'll put it in Issue 2 2008. I must admit I was surprised at how much interest this question generated.

Well, what do you think of the color photographs in the newsletter? I hope it motivates you to send in some photos of yourself in your shack, participating in a radio activity or of your favorite key, etc, along with a little article. Sending things via email is best: nancy@tir.com

There was a snafu with the renewal dates on the mailing labels of Issue 8. I don't know what happened, but on most of the Keynotes, the renewal date and member number were replaced by some obscure code that I can only assume was a mailing code. I contacted the printer and asked them to make sure the renewal date is on this issue. I apologize for the confusion - if you ever need to know your renewal date, just drop me a note and ask and I'll look it up for you.

The new award for 2008 is sponsored by the UK Chapter. It is an International Event with each Chapter competing against themselves. It is year-long, so it should keep you busy, if you choose to participate, which we hope you do! Here's a summary - more info will be on the web page: Worldwide 21st ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITY. The months of: February. April. June. August. October. & December

Only Fists members will count for points in the activity. A member can only be claimed ONCE on each band.

1 point for each member worked. (National club calls=5points. Member clubs=3points) When you've worked 21 DIFFERENT members on a particular band you can double the points. (21 points becomes 42 points)

Logs and questions go to Rob:
m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk

By the time you read this, the Code Buddy application ought to be back on the web page, without the bugs. Nick and his crew have been working very hard to get things squared away, so the ORIGINAL One and Only Code Buddy program will be back in business. Even though the bands are crummy, please consider signing up to be a Code Buddy Elmer or a Practice Buddy for someone who is about your speed and wants a friendly fist to sked with.

The Millionaire award will be capped at 25 million points. Aren't the scores of some of these FISTS amazing?

The UK/Down Under and JA Chapter newsletters are included in this issue. **Some of the info in their sections applies ONLY TO THEM, so don't get confused when reading about their dues, supplies, QSL bureau, etc. If you have any questions, ask the appropriate person listed on the facing page.**

73 33 88 Nancy Kott WZ8C

Welcome to the New FISTS

| Number | callsign | First | State | Sponsor |
|--------|----------|---------|-------|---------|
| 13586 | N9SDT | ED | IL | |
| 13587 | W9ORW | BOB | IN | |
| 13588 | KC2RNU | STEVE | NJ | |
| 13589 | KC2SKI | BOB | NY | |
| 13590 | KD7UWO | PAUL | WA | |
| 13591 | NY0R | ROY | MN | |
| 13592 | W0CLT | Craig | CO | ZL2AOH |
| 13593 | VE7NSD | Stephen | BC | |
| 13594 | W5GW | GARY | TX | |
| 13595 | K0FQ | FRED | MN | |
| 13596 | WB7SSN | Dyke | UT | |
| 13597 | VE3OB | Ken | ON | |
| 13598 | WB5HSZ | DOUG | OK | |
| 13599 | N7KOM | MERLE | WA | |
| 13601 | KI4NFZ | JUDIE | VA | |
| 13602 | KI4NFY | DAN | VA | |
| 13603 | KN0R | RON | IA | |
| 13604 | KB9KC | KENNY | IL | |
| 13605 | KC2EGL | Michael | PA | |
| 13606 | WA9TPZ | Lou | IN | W9FNB |
| 13607 | WA2ARQ | VIC | NY | |
| 13608 | N4HBH | John | VA | KA8HFN |
| 13609 | VE7KWN | Roy | BC | |
| 13610 | WD0ESF | MICHAEL | KS | W5GXV |
| 13611 | W4ATK | JIM | AL | |
| 13612 | KY4P | CHARLES | NC | |
| 13613 | W4ONC | JOE | VA | |
| 13614 | W2BAH | FRANK | NY | |
| 13615 | N0BOF | Bob | MN | |
| 13616 | W9FBO | HARRY | WA | WZ8C |
| 13617 | K4EET | DAVE | MD | K2YWE |
| 13618 | KF6IHL | MIKE | CA | |
| 13619 | K9VIF | RED | IN | WA5LPW |
| 13620 | K9TB | TOM | IN | |
| 13621 | W5BXX | DAVE | TX | WB5IUU |
| 13622 | KC0SRN | JAMES | MO | |
| 13623 | K5PL | DAVID | TX | |
| 13624 | KC8USL | Robert | OH | |
| 13626 | N5PU | LEON | MS | |
| 13627 | K4DSC | Ray | TN | |
| 13628 | N5EJK | TOM | MS | N3EJK |
| 13629 | AD5WY | JEFF | TX | |
| 13630 | N0LRF | PAUL | KS | WB0AUQ |
| 13631 | W8LV | William | OH | |

| Number | callsign | First | ST | Sponsor |
|--------|----------|----------|----|---------|
| 13632 | KB3QAA | Griffith | PA | |
| 13633 | K6CLF | Craig | CA | |
| 13634 | AJ4SF | DONALD | NC | |
| 13635 | KB9ABX | Chris | FL | |
| 13636 | WB5PZH | RUSS | OK | |
| 13637 | K5EWJ | COOKIE | TX | WF5W |
| 13638 | W5TOM | Tom | TX | |
| 13639 | N1ACZ | JIM | TX | N1BWP |
| 13640 | K3JMH | JEFF | FL | |
| 13641 | KF4HUN | Barry | NC | |
| 13642 | NM8L | MELVIN | MI | W8YDJ |
| 13643 | K4MHM | MURRAY | NC | |
| 13644 | K3XLT | JIM | PA | |
| 13645 | K7BAN | JAMES | UT | W7RVR |

REWARD OFFERED

A reward of 500 MICROFARADS is offered for information leading to the arrest of this desperate criminal, HOP-A-LONG CAPACITY.

THIS UNRECTIFIED CRIMINAL ESCAPED FROM A WESTERN PRIMARY CELL WHERE HE HAD BEEN CLAMPED IN IONS AWAITING THE GAUSS CHAMBER. HE WAS CHARGED WITH THE INDUCTION OF AN 18 TURN COIL NAMED MILLIHENRY WHO WAS FOUND CHOKED AND ROBBED OF VALUABLE JOULES. HE IS ARMED WITH A CARBON ROD AND IS A POTENTIAL KILLER. CAPACITY IS ALSO CHARGED WITH DRIVING A DC MOTOR OVER A WHEATSTONE BRIDGE AND REFUSING TO LET THE BAND-PASS.

IF ENCOUNTERED, HE MAY OFFER SERIES OF RESISTANCE. THE ELECTROMOTIVE FORCE SPENT THE NIGHT SEARCHING FOR HIM IN A MAGNETIC FIELD, WHERE HE HAD GONE TO EARTH. THEY HAD NO SUCCESS AND BELIEVED HE HAD RETURNED OHM VIA A SHORT CIRCUIT.

HE WAS LAST SEEN RIDING A KILOCYCLE WITH HIS FRIEND EDDY CURRENT WHO WAS PLAYING A HARMONIC.

(received from Richard Schwanke)

Silent Keys

I recently found out about some of these Silent Keys while straightening out the FISTS Active Member list for the roster in Issue 1 2008. Oftentimes, the family doesn't notify us. Where I could, I put the date of death in the listing.

K1UNQ #1218 Carl - Silent Key 10/ 16/ 2007
N1HYF #1294 Shirley - Silent Key
AG1L #6654 Marv - Silent Key 9/25/3005
K2YEW # 2654 Norman - Silent Key 12/2007
W3PNL #3569 Joe - Silent Key 11/18/2007
N3PM #1268 Joe - Silent Key
WA3CSF #1271 Joe - Silent Key
AA4NG #5280 Fred - Silent Key 2/13/2006
W4DNZ #4269 Phil - Silent Key April 2007
N4NHK #8451 Archie - Silent Key 12/16/ 2006
KK4HW #1426 Julius - Silent Key
W4TI #8127 Diehl - Silent Key 10/27/2007
W5DPM #11047 Wes- Silent Key 11/25/2005
KG6ZR, # 929 Len - Silent Key
KG6YPD #11754 Lynn - Silent Key 2/9/2006
W6XS #6921 Bob - Silent Key 6/22/2007

WA6VEM #9360 Nathan - Silent Key 6/ 2006

KG6ZR #9294 Len - Silent Key 11/18/2007 (brother-in-law of Tom KI4HEX #11768)

WB7QBC #2796 John - Silent Key 9/11/ 2007

W7JAT #1002 Vern - Silent Key

W9RQG #10398 Victor - Silent Key 6/20/ 2006

W9IV #11240 Mac - Silent Key 9/15/2007

WF0R #11216 Wayne - Silent Key 8/2/ 2007

AG0A #6627 Dennis - Silent Key.

The Last Radio Officer on a Canadian Ship Retiring in 2008

Paul DuMesnil included this note with his renewal:
"In 2008 I will finally retire after 40 years at sea as a Radio Officer. My last ship will be the research vessel QUEST, international call letters CZDO, which is the callsign FISTS shows me under in the list of active members. I am the LAST R/O on a Canadian ship! After me, the profession is no more. Cheers and 73, Paul DuMesnil

*My name is Joe WA4ONV, # 10551. My wife and I spent some time in the Hualapai Indian Nation in the Grand Canyon. We visited this old cowboy ranch that dates back to circa 1890. I am standing in front of an old telegraph office which was called Canyon Telegraph. I though it was interesting to have a picture taken since that's the mode I exclusively use in HF. Perhaps you can publish it so others in our club can appreciate it too since we all share our love for CW and the preservation of this old but reliable mode. Sincerely,
Joe Palomino WA4ONV*



Feedback on Postal Inconsistencies

Well, I read your comments on the postal system in Issue 7, page 7 of the FISTS CW Club magazine. My blood is still boiling on this one.

I have been fighting with my post office on this and have actually been told, "It's our football and YOU need to play on OUR field."

I have taken it to two different clerks at the same post office. One gives me one story, it goes out for 2 oz. The other sends it out as a first-class parcel. Same envelope, same amount of cards to the same place. Every time I ask to talk to the postmaster, they give me a song and dance about he isn't in, he's busy, and for all I know, he doesn't exist.

If I take the same envelope to another post office three miles away, they give me another story. When I ask to see the postal regulations, they can't show them to me. They tell me they went to school to learn how to judge the envelope and they are right every time.

Yep, every time.....4 clerks, 2 post offices and no one is consistent. If I had another way to get my cards to FISTS or ARRL I would use it.

My next letter on this subject is going to the Post Master General and a copy to my Congressman. I cannot believe they are pulling this fraud on the U.S. Taxpayers.

Don, K9UQN

Another Independent Radio Repair Place and "TP" - what's up with that?

Issur 8 Icom repair: KUNI has great service, price is right, and a good guy. He has repaired my Kenwood TS-570S and my old Icom 28A mobile rig. And I'm STILL hearing 'TP' being sent on the air EVERY DAY. Richard Perkins WA7SNY.

Richard didn't send any more info on "KUNI" (location phone, etc) so if you're interested maybe you can do a search and find them on line.

Calling "CQ FISTS", Calling Frequencies and Other Things

by Jack Cartinhour, N5DY FISTS # 11105

Hello, fellow FISTS members. This is Jack, N5DY. I have collected around 700 FISTS numbers, so some of you might find me in your log. In issue 7 - 2007 of the Keynote, the editor stated that she would like to receive some articles for this journal, so I decided to make the attempt. (This might well be an example of: "be careful what you ask for, because you might get it!") Anyway, you will find here - assuming that the editor doesn't consign this paper to the round circular file - some miscellaneous comments on a few issues that have been raised in previous editions of the Keynote, and on one issue that has not been raised before, that I can recall: the proper use of the FISTS calling frequencies. Some of these comments are controversial, but they are not offered in the antagonistic spirit that you can find on QRZ.COM. At least, that is not my intention.

1. Regarding the question of calling CQ FISTS: If I am going to operate around one of the FISTS "calling frequencies," then I will call CQ de N5DY / FISTS. The idea is that the / FISTS notation is merely an advertisement that I am a FISTS member, and that I am looking for a QSO, FISTS member or not. I avoid calling CQ FISTS de N5DY, except during a FISTS contest.

2. Regarding the issue of short QSO's: I like to ragchew, but that does not mean that everybody else will or should. If someone just wants to exchange FISTS numbers, that's OK with me. I don't find it very difficult to hunt up a good ragchew; I can simply call CQ again. There is plenty of room for both styles of operation.

3. As for abbreviations: The higher the speed, the less need for abbreviations. In fact, above a certain speed level (the value of which depends on the operator), overuse of abbreviations tends to make it

more difficult to copy, especially if you are copying in your head and not trying to write it down. I don't think it is possible to come up with a rule of thumb here, but I sympathize with those who complain about excessive abbreviations.

4. Now for some controversy. There is a question regarding the proper use of the FISTS calling frequencies (.x58). The most recent Keynote reference issue states: "Remember, these are recommended calling frequencies and QSO's should be moved to another frequency." Let me refer to this as the "official rule." But from the beginning of my FISTS membership (2004) I have observed that in actual practice, FISTS members hang out in a relatively narrow band of frequencies centered at .x58 (plus or minus, say, 1 kHz), and do not obey the "official rule." If .x58 is available, people call CQ there and do not QSY to another frequency (at least not that I have ever heard). If .x58 is not available, people simply move off to one side and call CQ there instead; and most people seem to understand and accept this arrangement. It has become the custom. Let me refer to this as the "de facto rule."

The purists among us will insist on following the official rule, but it appears to me that the purists have been outvoted by the followers of the de facto rule. My own view is that the de facto rule makes sense on the popular HF

bands, because if there is even a modest amount of activity, having to QSY to another frequency is problematic at best. How do you choose the second frequency without inadvertently causing QRM to another QSO in progress? Not all of us have the high dollar rigs with dual receivers that allow us to simultaneously monitor two frequencies at once in a convenient manner. The followers of the de facto rule are saying, in effect, that the official rule probably makes good sense on the VHF and UHF bands, but on the HF bands it is more trouble than it is worth; it adds an unnecessary layer of complexity to standard operating practice. If the overwhelming majority of FISTS operators are following the de facto rule, then the purists who insist on following the official rule, and who give lectures to those who do not, are like the old High School English teachers who got bent out of shape over split infinitives. Or they are like the operators who insist on giving "real" signal reports during a contest. They mean well, but there is a strong tide running against them. And besides, what is so bad about the de facto rule, anyway? Who is harmed by it?

As long as there is a controversy over this question, I will probably avoid calling CQ on the .x58 calling frequencies. Instead, I will look for an open spot on either side, because I have found that I can often find a QSO that way. But if another operator is calling CQ on .x58, I will feel free to answer and have a QSO there

if that is what the other operator wants to do.

I will also venture to state the opinion that the official rule should be suspended during the FISTS Sprints, and that this suspension should be written into the Sprint rules. (The same goes for the other FISTS sponsored contests.)

It will be interesting to see if the above comments generate a vigorous response. Maybe the FISTS member who gave me a polite lecture on the official rule because I dared to call CQ FISTS on .x58 during the recent straight key contest will step up to the plate. He was polite and articulate, and he did identify himself by callsign and name; I would bet that he could write an excellent article.

5. As long as I am being controversial, I might as well consider the question of code speed. There are those who complain that the "fast" operators will not QRS. Now I will gladly honor a request to QRS to the extent that I can do so and still send decent code. My QRS technique is to switch to a straight key. But even on a straight key, I find that if I try to slow down too much, my rhythm is thrown off. If I start to reach that point, and if it is still not slow enough, then I will try to compensate by increasing the spacing between words. My point is that the slow speed operators may not have considered the possibility that for some us, sending as slowly as they desire is not quite

as easy as they think. By the way, if I come across a slow speed operator who is calling CQ, then I will either try to answer him at close to his speed, or I will pass him by. It would be bad form to answer a 10 WPM CQ at, say, 20 WPM. And I should also note that of course the terms “slow speed” and “high speed” are strictly relative and subjective. The 30 WPM guy is a slowpoke in the eyes of the 50 WPM guy. My comfortable range is roughly 15 to 35 WPM; the high end of this range decreases in QRN/QSB.

6. And last but not least, and while I am on a roll here: With respect to the mechanics of sending – for example, how you should position your hand and fingers, and so forth – there is no “right” or “wrong” way to send cw. There is a large variety of hand sizes, relative finger lengths, etc. There is also a wide range of nervous dispositions, so to speak. Some operators will prefer a light touch on the paddle, while others prefer a heavy touch – or perhaps the heavy touch comes naturally to them, even if they would rather have the light touch — and need to screw the paddle to the desk. Some operators have learned to send cw with the paddle wired “backwards,” but it is only “backwards” with respect to sending on a bug. Some folks love iambic squeeze keying and others hate it; some love using a bug and others hate it; etc., etc. But the only thing that really matters is whether or not you send code that

can be copied with ease. In my case, for some reason I found it easy to learn to send with a bug, but totally frustrating to try to learn iambic squeeze keying. When I use a keyer, I use a single lever paddle. I never had a problem sending on a straight key – it seems to come naturally. And my favorite way to send on a straight key is to hold the key in my lap (the key is screwed to a piece of board) while resting my elbow on the arm of the chair. It is not the only way I can do it, and I didn’t learn it this way originally, but it is my favorite way. These things are neither “right” nor “wrong” in general, but for whatever reason they are “right” for me because they work for me. I hope that those who intend to “Elmer” new hams on sending cw will keep an open mind here.

The general spirit of the above comments is: hey guys, lighten up. For most of us, this is a hobby. We have enough stress from other sources.

73, Jack N5DY

The WARC Band Challenge

During my 60th year as an amateur, I decided to run QRP while participating in the 2007 FISTS WARC Band Challenge. Once again it was great fun to see what I could accomplish operating on 30, 17 and 12 Meters.

The great majority of my contacts were made running my Elecraft

K2 at 5 Watts into a 160 Meter inverted vee antenna. I did build an Elecraft KX1 and made 34 contacts with it on 30 Meters. I cranked the power back on my Ten-Tec Scout to 5 Watts a few times and made 12 contacts on the WARC bands while operating “mobile in motion”.

Through December 16, I have made a total of 427 QSO’s on the WARC bands. I’ve contacted 345 different stations, of which 153 were FISTS members. Those contacts with FISTS members were from 109 different grid squares. In the WARC Band Challenge you get a multiplier for each unique grid in which you work a FISTS member.

What can you accomplish on the WARC bands? Well, running QRP I have worked 78 different DXCC countries on the WARC bands. I worked 56 on 30 Meters, 46 on 17 Meters and 2 on 12 Meters. However, I was able to work only five continents. I couldn’t find a station in Asia that could hear my “peanut whistle” signal. Twelve Meters was seldom open, but I did get a kick out of working ON4IQ on that band on October 26th.

I got 154 points worth of FISTS contacts on 30 Meters and 35 points worth of FISTS contacts on 17 Meters. I worked FISTS members in 21 countries and 4 continents. The breakdown is 15 countries on 30 Meters, 11 on 17 Meters and 1 on 12 Meters.

In the challenge you score 2 points for each QSO with a FISTS member and 1 point for each contact with a non-member. This means you work everybody you can. And it gives you a chance to tell the non-members about the FISTS CW Club.

I am continually surprised with the propagation on the 30 Meter and 17 Meter bands and what you can work with a QRP signal. So, fellow members get on the WARC bands. Have some fun and work the world !

73, Stan – K4UK

FISTS + WARC = FUN

Have you tried our WARC bands (30, 17 and 12 meters) lately? Sure conditions are not always the best but, there are lots of challenges and excitement on these bands. How fortunate we are to have these bands in addition to the traditional ones.

At the urging of my good friend, Stan, K4UK I spend a good part of operating time on these bands. 2007 has produced 500+ QSOs for me with old friends, new ones, and DX. The benefits of the WARC bands seem to me to be:

**** 30 meters**, what a jewel - a CW only band! Plenty of North American stations and good DX also. Generally open longer and more reliable than 17 meters at this time.

**** 17 meters**, good DX at times,

short skip/long skip, and many surprises.

**** 12 meters**, the low point of Cycle 23 has been difficult but some N to S propagation is possible. With Cycle 24 coming this could be a super band. It should mirror 10 meter conditions.

**** Propagation** is most interesting on all bands these days. A CQ on a "dead band" WARC band might even produce a VK or ZL or JA contact.

**** Certificate hunters** will surely try for WAS, WAC, DXCC, WAZ, and other awards.

**** FISTS members** like fun and the WARC Band Challenge provides it in the form of seeking out not only members but also non-members for their grid squares. Most transceivers operate on these WARC bands and antennas do not have to be elaborate. A vertical, a dipole, or a multi band dipole are most often used. Some stations use directional antennas, a real plus. QRP stations are having fun on the WARC bands too.

Stan, K4UK, running QRP, has worked many of the same stations that I work with 90 watts.

In keeping with FISTS goals of promoting CW, encouraging new cw hams, and fostering friendships, the WARC bands are just waiting for you!

73, Buddy, W4YE, FISTS 3929

Listen Before Pouncing

I suspect the problem here was that the band changed, but in any case please make an extra effort to listen before calling....

I am a new member of Fists and on Christmas night I made contact with a FISTS station: KN0WCW/8K We were just getting into signal reports and I gave him my new FISTS number.

When I turned 'over to him several stations broke in right on top of me and killed me! I was not able to complete the QSO. I thought this was a horrible practice and I am very disheartened by this experience and operating practices of FISTS members.

I am a weak station yet received an RST report from Dave of a 559.

I have to tell you that if this is the type of operations I will have to deal with FISTS, I will not want to be a member of this club.

I am a seasoned Ham of 20+ years and always prided myself on good courteous operations. This behavior I experienced tonight was atrocious!

I would hope that this was an isolated incident and will not happen again!

I was happy to join this group and will demit from this club if this is what I will have to deal with.
(Name withheld)

This topic has generated more mail than anything in recent history! Thanks to Rick, WB0NQM , for suggesting it.

DO WE ABBREVIATE TOO MUCH??

Back in the old days of Western Union, people were charged by the character sent so using abbreviations made good economic sense. Today, whether to use abbreviations and to what extent, is strictly a matter of opinion.

I think most of us would agree that abbreviations like TNX, WX, FB, ES, etc., are so common that their use is acceptable. The controversy more likely involves GG, TT, WL, etc.

When I was young, my Mom used to say, "When in France, do as the French do," and I apply this philosophy to my CW QSOs. From the beginning of a QSO, I listen to what level of abbreviations the other person is using and I match my use to his or hers. I figure if they use it, they are comfortable receiving it. However, if I feel I am working a relatively inexperienced operator, I limit the use of abbreviations to only the most common.

I will admit that I have worked some folks who used many obscure abbreviations and I do find them a little harder to copy, but I simply view this as good receiving practice for me. I can also say that some of my most enjoyable QSOs have been with other experienced operators when we used almost no abbreviations.

The only thing important to me is the CW QSO. I don't care if abbreviations are used or not. I'll work someone at 5 wpm or 25 wpm. I even enjoy those folks using bugs and sending dashes at 5 wpm and dots at 35 wpm. I want to become the best CW operator I can and feel that a big part of this objective is to make each QSO as easy and enjoyable for the other person as I can.

73 es hpe to cu agn sn Oops, sorry!
Best Regards and I hope to see you again soon.

Ron Eckert - K8JFT FISTS- 10990

Abbreviations (this word needs one) are the life blood of Morse Code. They are what makes CW so much fun. They are one of the reasons Morse has survived so long and is alive today.

We have a code within a code and we should be proud to be able to handle it. CW, CQ, DX, OM, XYL, QTH, 73, and the list goes on and on. They are all the content of a 30 sec. or a 30 min. ham radio contact either in Morse or phone.

Who else would know what this means, GE OM UR 579 QTH NYC OP JOHN BK only a ham, and we should be glad to be included in that community.

CW and abbreviations are fun. Without them, the QRM would be overwhelming. After all, our call signs are abbreviations for a USA station in a particular part of the country. We are surrounded by abbreviations, let's enjoy using them.

73, Bob Linker W5SQA

Was reading your article in The Keynote the new Issue and I tend to agree with you. Am ashamed of myself but am getting back into CW again after 40 plus some years and have been when time permits copying W1AW to get the code speed up again.

Now and then I will listen to a live QSO and think to myself I cannot be that bad at copying. Then come to figure out it is abbreviations that I have no idea what they mean. Hi

Heck I even put in for a code buddy that like myself wants to get on and QSO to get our speed up some and old fashioned QSO.

Regards 73
Herb WA3HGT #10685

Rick, you are 100% correct. Some operators make up their own abbreviations and by the time you have made multiple guesses for an interpretation, the QSO goes into the bit bucket here.

If you get very many positive replies saying all is well with abbreviations, it will reaffirm my belief in the tooth fairy.

73, George, KR5C

Rick, You have made an interesting observation. I agree with you in general. The only point I have to make is that I feel this is a symptom of our "want it now" society. You tend to see the same thing in what kids are doing with text messages. Just make it short and to the point. Forget about form, only worry about function.

CW to many (myself included) tends to be like music; it has a flow and rhythm that you pointed out in your article. These artificial abbreviations and broken English tend to an interruption. It's almost uncomfortable.

So, the bottom line is that you're not alone in what you have noticed!

73! Scott Yakoubian KA5KTI (FISTS 8626)

It is with great interest I read "Do we abbreviate too Much" in the latest KeyNote. In my view, CW is an artform and should not be contaminated with home made abbreviations that doesn't belong there - it's like a language being misused to such an extent that it all turns into slang. It definitely destroys the rhythm of mid- to high-speed CW.

I am the type of person who not only have a "sound-picture" of the characters in my spine, but in many cases also a similar "sound-picture" of whole (sometimes complex) words in my head. If that "sound-picture" is interrupted by an unusual abbreviation, the whole rhythm is often thrown off for a few words. This wonderful ability of the human

brain to store "sound-pictures" is what enabled us to learn and enjoy CW in the first place. And if it is extended to whole words, well anyone can figure out that this enables for rather extreme high-speed CW - especially with a little practice.

Besides, there's a reason why the whole Q-system was invented, along with the internationally accepted abbreviations; Instead of PSE WAIT, PHN CALL (?) we could just use the internationally accepted "di-dah-di-di-dit" or even QRX. I am not a purist in the true meaning of the word, but I think CW should be kept as clean as possible for the benefit of us, and younger generations coming after us., Thanks,

73 de W1JKP / Kenth Astrom FISTS # 13378

The problem is that individuals are starting to abbreviate words in their own ways. Mostly, they seem to think it's OK to eliminate all the vowels in words—all words.

It's very confusing and totally unnecessary. We should all stick to the accepted ones used throughout the years. The ARRL used to have an operating guide to the most common ones. Those should be the ones we continue to use.

Dennis Drew, W7RVR

My feeling is that this is a non-starter of a subject. From a perspective of over 67 years pounding brass and copying all kinds of stuff, from 5 letter code groups, press reports and many, many ham CW QSO's, I have never perceived abbreviations as a problem. If the unfamiliar string of letters is a surprise, the context in which the shortened word is used should clear up matters, if not, ask the guy for a clarification.

This is a good reason for using QSK, too, so you can break for immediate enlightenment. There is a rhythm to good Morse, but many abbreviations contribute to that rhythm rather than hinder it ("gng"

instead of "going", "hrd" instead of "heard" come to mind).

As far as a "rhythm" between operators.....naw!
This is not a dance competition. My pet peeve as far as abbreviations go is the increasing use of "BTU" to signal a xmsn (there's a good one!) turn-over. The invitation to transmit prosign "K" (or "BK") is sufficient. In the abbreviated language of the internet...My 2c.....FWIW!

73 es 88 (both from the old Phillips Code)!
Chuck W8LQ FISTS 1477

I think a lot of it is people think they they are some kind of know-it-all and expect everyone else to be the same. I too find it hard to talk to people when I stumble on something that I can't figure out. If people would stick to the standard Q's and most widely used abbreviations then that would make life a lot easier.

Another thing that bothers me is trying to decipher what someone is pecking out on a strait key when all their letters come out as a string of dits. That drives me CRAZY! Listening to bug ops can be just as bad when they send their dahs about 4 times too long HIHI. Now, if an operator is skilled at a bug and can send right it is beautiful to listen to.

*Its all about rythm and keeping it.
I agree with you that CW is the backbone of Ham radio. I was ticked off when the code test went bye-bye. If you are to operate on HF you should have to learn CW - thats all there is to it. I only had to pass a 5wpm exam when I got my license, now I wish it was still 13 and 20 - I could pass them now HIHI.*

By the way, Im a younger guy. I am 22 years old. Ive been in Ham radio for over 6 years now, mostly CW. Check out my site www.kc8qvo.com for more info - the post about my station has a picture of my key collection.

I agree 100%...I, have been licensed for over 40 years, and have noticed this very troubling phenomenon. There have always been standard CW abbreviations and most CW operators know them but not everyone uses them at all times. They are a must for traffic nets, but not necessary for rag-chewing. Rag chewing should be informal and "user-friendly", to steal a term from the computer genre.

In my opinion this trend comes from the text messaging crowd and tells us old timers a little bit about the "abbreviator", if not his age, then about how long he has been hamming. These abbreviations are not appropriate for CW and cause undue confusion and delay while the recipient tries to decipher the additional code these folks have taken upon themselves to add to our hobby.

When I encounter one of these operators, I try to avoid him out of embarrassment, and that is not good for the future of ham radio and especially for CW. I am embarrassed because I don't know what the heck he is talking about. When one is reading the mail, he is doing it in his head and these abbreviations wipe out understanding. I will not try to call a station I have been reading the mail on, after he signs with another station, if I don't know what he is talking about, just the same as I would probably not call a station that is too fast for me.

The computer oriented folks of today are very impatient. They waste resources, leaving their computers running and on line 24/7 because they cannot stand the delay waiting for the machine to boot up. Not a very "green" attitude, to my way of thinking. The computer may be drawing only a few milliamperes while it is "sleeping", but multiply it by the millions of computers doing the same thing and it adds up to megawatts of waste. Just my humble opinion.

73 Jerry McCarthy, WA2DKG

I certainly agree with Rick's evaluation of the problem. Since I tend to stick with the 20 wpm and under CW operators, the offenders that abbreviate too much for my understanding are perhaps less than one in ten contacts.

During these poor solar times with low signal strength and significant QSB conditions trying to copy what is being sent to you takes on added levels of challenge. It has gotten to the point for me that under poor copy conditions if there is excessive abbreviations being used and I don't understand what is being sent, I will politely end the QSO and move on. During my years of being a cw operator my feelings are such that there are few things available to me to help my contact understand what I send to him/her. I'm in no rush to complete my contact and to fully spell out most words of my communication is my way of telling the contact that I truly appreciate his effort to contact me.

The offender may not realize or doesn't care how he is perceived. Perhaps the best way for them to gain that understanding is reading articles like the one you wrote. Thank you, it can only help.

Sincerely, Vern Lovelace, AA7VW, 10,044

Yes too many abbreviations can be a problem especially to someone who is newer or an occasional cw op. Some Abbreviations certainly help, but I have had QSOs with ops and every other word is abbreviated and it gets hard to understand the conversation especially if I miss a letter or two.

When I work an op who is newer I do not abbreviate. I spell out every word even 'back to you' I think its more important that we have a QSO that we both understand rather than seeing how many things we can talk about.

anywy tu fer da artcl its alwys gud to get fists nwsltrs hpy hlydys es hpy nwyr

73 HI HI Steve Howard AB0XE 8641

There are some fast operators who do not realize that there are others that will never be able to cope with high speed. It would be like the top athletes expecting everyone to be able to accomplish what they have.

Impossible!

During WW2 I was an Army radio operator in a battalion with three radio operators in each company, so I learned the code at that time. In 1951 I got a conditional ham license while living in Cooperstown, ND. After coming to Phoenix, AZ in 1964, I slowly upgraded until I got my Extra in 1993.

Over the years, I have copied with a pencil and paper when in QSO. When listening to other QSOs, I like to copy in my head, and 18 to 25 is a nice easy speed to copy, especially if it is all plain text, not abbreviations.

At my age, if I don't write down what the other guy sends me, I will forget what to comment on when it's my turn!

*Thanks for your article in FISTS The Keynote.
73, Loren W7BWI FISTS 2475*



Look at how Dave KI4GLH #11179 jazzed up his FISTS polo! It looks VERY FB, Dave!

I came up with an idea I would like to share. I recently purchased a new cell phone. I noticed it had a voice recorder built into it.

I thought why would you need this. Then it hit me, why not record CW ring tones. It's easy to do.

First you need to load your radio, or keyer with a message, I did mine free hand.

Next, play the message while recording the ring tone. The ring tone saves to your phone, not the SIM card.

Then from your contact list select a contact, and copy that contact to your phone. Leave a copy on your SIM card. Yes you will have two contacts the same.

Next open the contact that was saved to your phone and assign it the CW ring tone.

It's cool when your in public or out with other HAMS. When my mother calls my ring tone plays "CALL UR MOM 73."

Another thing I realized one day while driving es working dx from my car I could record "log" my contacts on my phone, then play it back when I get home.

Try it you'll like!
73!

Cody/KC2LSD FISTS. 11793

A reminder about logs for the 20-20 award. All logs submitted for 20-20 Awards must be post marked no later than Jan 31, 2008 in order to qualify for the 20-20 certificate and/or plaque. 20-20 Award plaques will be ordered after the end of Jan 2008.

I hope everyone enjoyed a Happy Holidays Season. Let's hope the bands really come alive in 2008!

You may use the following e-mail address Fistsawards@comcast.net for sending in your award logs. Excel, Word, and Text files are the only file types accepted. Please read the e-mail log rules on the FISTS web site for details.

Send in **complete logs** for awards. That means all of the following information; Call, Date of QSO, Band, FISTS Nr., Point/s claimed for each QSO. Incomplete logs, delay receiving your award certificate.

Check the FISTS Web Page for additional information regarding current FISTS awards and how to apply for them:
<http://www.fists.org/awards.html>

If you have any questions about the awards that are not answered on the FISTS awards web page, feel free to e-mail your questions to fistsawards@comcast.net
Keep banging the brass . . . C U on the bands . . . 73, Dennis K6DF
=====

Basic Century (CC)
W4HAY

Silver Century
WB4DAD

RCC Award
W5GXV

Platinum Award

WB4DAD

20-20 Nov

K0TC

KA8HFN

KC0JKD

KD0V

KG4NNN

KK0I

KS3S

VE3HUR

W3MWR

W5GXV

W7GVE

W9SJW

WB0PYF

WB2MIC

WB4MED

WI0S

Millionaire
WY3H

2 Million
WB4DAD
N9FC

3 Million
WB4DAD

8 Million
K4UK

18 Million
KC0JKD



FISTS Member Aboard the Queen Mary

Al , N1MHC, took some time off during a visit to California for his new granddaughter's christening to activate the ham station on the Queen Mary.



Congrats!
to
Greg
N3ZL

I'm 17 years old and a very active CW op (I make at least a couple QSOs every single day, and usually more, except when school gets in the way) and a member of FISTS. I won the 2006 Hiram Percy Maxim award this year, no doubt helped by my Eagle Scout project of putting up VHF antennas at local Red Cross evacuation shelters.

I just found my picture in the contesting article in the January QST, which I had no idea it was going to be!! I'm doing my best to show that there is at least ONE young ham out there enjoying CW.

Lastly, thanks Nancy, for the VP2V/WZ8C QSO :) 73 de Greg N3ZL

QRP with John Shannon K3WWP Column #83

Since the NAQCC celebrated its 3rd anniversary in October 2007, I thought I'd talk about the club in this column.

When Tom Mitchell WY3H (then KB3LFC) founded the club in 2004 and asked me to be a partner in running the club, we both figured we'd collect maybe 50 members at the very most since there were so many other QRP clubs in existence. Well, 2,121 members later, I think I can say we blew that estimate a little bit.

I believe the club is so popular because we don't fool with phone nor any of the multitude of digital modes in existence today. We are devoted strictly to the use of and preserving of that grand old mode - CW or Morse code. That's exactly what FISTS does with the exception that we promote operating at QRP power levels while FISTS promotes operating at any power level.

Perhaps I should intersperse an explanation here. The NAQCC does NOT require its members to operate STRICTLY QRP. Anyone is welcome to join if they adhere to the following. 1. They must love, use, and promote Morse code. 2. They must at least occasionally use QRP power in their operating of Morse code. Perhaps someone only likes to operate QRP in certain contests while the rest of the time they use QRO. They are welcome to join the NAQCC since they are promoting CW and QRP. Many of

our members are dedicated 100% QRP operators such as I am, but many others also operate QRO at times. That is perfectly OK.

If the preceding paragraph applies to you, I invite you to join. Then you will be like a double barreled shotgun in the fight against those trying to wipe out CW from the ham bands. You'll have FISTS in one barrel and the NAQCC in the other barrel for a powerful 1-2 punch.

Our monthly weekday evening sprints have become very popular, and among organizations holding such sprints, the NAQCC ranks right up near the top in member participation percentage. We are drawing more participants than organizations having more members. We believe it is the relaxed atmosphere of the sprints that is the reason for their popularity. Giving a bonus multiplier of 2 for using a straight key encourages slower speed operation which in turn doesn't frighten off folks like some high-speed, hectic type of sprints. Also our alternating schedule of a 2nd Tuesday and 3rd Wednesday evening every other month allows virtually anyone to participate in at least half our sprints.

Recently we added an autologger to the NAQCC web site to make submitting sprint reports very simple. One thing we do insist on is having everyone submit a complete log, not just a number of QSO's. This to ensure fairness to everyone by cross-checking all logs received for logging errors. This turned some members off at first, but now they

have come to realize just how fair doing so really is. Also we have Dave W3KM's GenLog program that is geared to our sprints (as well as over 200 other contests) and makes logging very simple.

We also have monthly challenges. They last a whole month and are something entirely different each month. One month we may challenge our members to make 30 QSO's on 30 meters, the next month to try to make words on a list we provide using letters from the call signs of folks they work during the month. Visit the web site to learn more.

We have an extensive awards program with some awards that are unique to our club. One such award is the QSO a Day award suggested originally by Stan K4UK based on my personal QRP QSO a Day streak that is now nearing 5,000 consecutive days. We issue an award for any number of months in a year from 1 up to the full 12 months or a complete year. Just make at least one QRP QSO a Day for any combination of months you choose. However if you only want to do a single month, then it must be at least 2 QRP QSO's a day. We also have a 30-30 award similar to the challenge I mentioned in the previous paragraph. Then we have several other awards I won't mention to keep this from growing into a book rather than a column. All the info is on the web site anyway, so I won't repeat it here.

We have some nice prizes being offered to our sprint and challenge participants thanks to the generous donations of our

members.

We are trying to do things to promote activity on the little used WARC bands, but those activities are just in their infancy now, and need to be developed. Also at that stage is an Elmering project to try to help those new to CW.

Membership is free with no dues of any kind, and always will be. We depend on the minimal fees we charge for our awards along with voluntary donations from our members to keep us financially afloat. So far we haven't come even close to sinking.

If all the above appeals to you, head on over to the club web site at www.usatek.net/~yoel/ and check us out. Hopefully I'll be processing your membership application before long. That's a tilde before the yoel in our web site address if it doesn't reproduce clearly in the Keynote.

Oh, mentioning the Keynote reminds me I forgot to mention our club newsletter. It's an on-line newsletter on the web site that is 'published' twice a month on the final Saturday of a month and also the Saturday preceding our weekday sprint. It's about 6 months old now and developing into a nice showpiece where our members can 'brag about' their accomplishments with QRP and CW. Plus it contains club news, a CW cartoon, nice photos, and promotes our sprints and challenges.

Whew, I didn't mean to be so long winded, but talking about the NAQCC is something I love to do. CU next column. 73.

Where are you folks

I have been listening to the bands more lately, and I haven't heard much CW activity. Where are you folks? I realize the band conditions are pretty poor and a lot of you would rather work DX, but if we don't use the frequencies we will lose them.

Don't think that in the past several years that the changes that have occurred in amateur radio are the only changes that will happen. There are lots of groups interested in our frequencies and are willing to move in at a moments notice.

One example is the 30 meter band, yes it is quit narrow only 50 kHz, but you can pack quit a few signals in that space. I have been monitoring this frequency for the past 3 months and most of the time I don't hear one signal. Now I admit I don't have the radio on 24/7 so I sure I have missed some activity. This band being between 40 meters and 20 meters seam to share characteristic of both bands. More important is it is the only band for CW and therefore should be used a lot more. So try out this band a little more and see what you think.

Now for the rest of the bands, again I haven't heard that much activity on these either. Yes during a contest, there is lots of activity, and then nothing. Remember the government allocated these frequencies to us and the government can remove them just as fast. I am not saying we will loose the entire band, but that portion for CW might just disappear. I am not sure of this but I think we are one of the last holdouts as far as using CW on a regular basis.

The folks north of the border have recently had a frequency allocation change and are now allowed to operate SSB in our CW space. Yes I know we can't govern what other countries do and I am sure the Canadian government had good reason to change their band plan. The point is other countries have also expanded their frequencies and have either removed the use of CW or have given the CW operators such a narrow window to operate in that most have given up.

I know that this solar cycle is having a tough time getting started, the old sun is quit a bit slower in shifting its magnetic poles which contribute to the sunspots we hope for so our propagation will increase. Just because we can't turn on our transceivers and start contacting hams in other countries doesn't mean we need to just sit around and wait.

Well I maybe mistaking and there is more activity than I think, and if so I am the one at fault. I really hope I am wrong. Hope to hear you on the bands.

Rick WB0NQM #10510

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., plans to administer fifty-five (55) scholarships for the academic year 2008 - 2009 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds three of these scholarships. Eleven are funded with the income from grants. The remaining forty-two (42) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$3000 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Amateur Radio Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card postmarked prior to March 30, 2007. Please send name, call and address to:

FAR Scholarships
Post Office Box 831
Riverdale, MD 20738

Applications are also available electronically for download from the FAR web site <http://www.amateurradio-far.org/>.

The Foundation encourages all qualified amateurs to apply for these awards.

The following awards will be available for the upcoming academic year:

The four (4) **10-10 International Net, Inc., Scholarships** pay \$1,500 each. There is no restriction on the course of study.

Applicants must seek an Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate degree. Non-US amateurs are eligible. Applicants must be a 10-10 member or provide a recommendation from a member of the 10-10 International Net.

There are five (5) **Baltimore Amateur Radio Club Scholarships**, 4 pay \$1,000 and 1 pays \$1,500.

Applicants must be Maryland residents. For three of the 4 - \$1,000 awards, preference will be given to those who have successfully completed one year of college or have been previous winners of this award.

The fourth award, which is reserved for an entering first year student, will be renewable for three years if the student remains in good academic standing throughout the period.

The fifth award, paying \$1,500, has been designated as the Ernie Dobos Memorial Scholarship with preference given to a Baltimore City resident.

Applicants must be pursuing a Bachelor's degree.

The Columbia Amateur Radio Association, Inc., Scholarship pays \$1,000.

It is available to Maryland residents Pursuing a Bachelor's degree in any course of study.

The Frederick Amateur Radio Club Scholarship pays \$1,000.

There is no restriction on the course of study. Applicants must reside within 150 miles of Frederick, Maryland;)Preference will be given to qualified applicants from Frederick County, Maryland. Applicant must be pursuing a Bachelor's degree.

The Free State Amateur Radio Club Scholarship pays \$500.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens residing in MD, DE, PA, VA or WV and Applicant must be enrolled or accepted for a course in technical studies.

Applicants must seek an Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate degree from a college or university in the United States.

The Kevin and Kelly Perdue Memo-

rial Scholarship, sponsored by **Kay Craigie-N3KN and Carter Craigie-N3AO**, pays \$2,000.

a) Applicants must pursue a Bachelor's degree with a Course of study in the liberal arts, humanities, or social sciences from a U.S. college or university.

The Murgas Amateur Radio Club Scholarship pays \$500.

Applicants must be residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and seek a Bachelor's degree from a U.S. college or university. There is no restriction on the course of study.

The Nanticoke Amateur Radio Club Scholarship pays \$1,000.

a) Preference will be given to those studying Architecture, Engineering, Electronics, Science or a related field at an institution of higher learning in the U.S.) Applicants must pursue a Bachelor's degree. Residence requirement: Delaware, DC, Maryland, or Virginia

The Lawrence E. and Thelma J. Norrie Memorial Scholarship, pays \$2,500.

Applicant must be a U.S. resident. Preference will be given to Juniors, Seniors and Graduate students with an academic Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher who are pursuing a Bachelor's or higher degree in science or engineering.

The Old Old Timers Club Scholarship pays \$600.

There are no restrictions as to residence, license class, or course of study. The applicant must intend to seek at least an Associate Degree and be recommended by an OOTC member.

OZAUKEE Radio Club Scholarship pays \$1,000.

It is available to Wisconsin residents pursuing a Bachelor's or Graduate degree in any course of study.

The Claude H. Haring, Jr., W3IIM Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the **Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc.** pays \$2,000.

There is no restriction on the course of study. Applicants must intend to seek a Bachelor's or Graduate degree, and reside in the Eastern Pennsylvania or Southern New Jersey ARRL Sections.

The Clinton R (Jim) Spencer Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the **Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc.** pays **\$2,000**.

There is no restriction on the course of study. Applicants must intend to seek a Bachelor's or Graduate degree, and reside in the Eastern Pennsylvania or Southern New Jersey ARRL Sections.

There are eighteen (18) **Quarter Century Wireless Association Scholarships**. These include 12 Memorial Scholarships at **\$1,000** each, the Jacobson-Kelleher Family at **\$1,000**, the Leo Meyerson Family at **\$1,000**, the Wes Randles at **\$1,100**, the Don and Phyllis Doughty Family at **\$1,400**, the Ralph Hasslinger at **\$1,600**, and the Leland Smith at **\$1,600**.

There are no restrictions on the course of study and applicants must intend to seek an Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate degree. There is no residence area preference. Applicants must be recommended by a member of QCWA, but may not themselves be members of QCWA. Non-US Amateurs are eligible.

There are three (3) **Radio Club of America Scholarships**, which pay **\$1,000** each.

Preference will be given to applicants pursuing studies in electrical engineering toward a Bachelor's degree and be U.S. citizens. Applicants must be in their Junior or Senior year of studies. Preference will be given to applicants taking courses in Wireless Communications. Minimum license requirement - General Class.

The Ralph V. "Andy" Anderson-KØNL Scholarship pays **\$1,000**.

There is no restriction on the course of study, but preference will be given to applicants pursuing a degree in Journalism. Applicants must be residents of the

U.S. or its territories. Applicants must be seeking a Bachelor's degree. Minimum license requirement - General Class.

The Chuck Reville, K3FT Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by **Phillip Karn, KA9Q**, pays **\$1,000**.

Applicants must intend to seek a Bachelor's degree in any branch of the engineering or physical sciences. There is no residence requirement.

The Richard G. Chichester Memorial Scholarship pays **\$2,000**.

Applicants must be members of the ARRL and be recommended by an ARRL-affiliated club (they need not be a member of the club). There is no restriction on the course of study. Applicant must be pursuing a Bachelor's degree. Preference will be given to Texas residents living in the metropolitan areas of Austin, Kerrville or San Antonio. Minimum license requirement - General Class.

The Robert E. True Memorial Scholarship pays **\$1,000**.

Applicants must be residents of the state of Ohio seeking a Bachelor's degree at a US college or university. Preference will be given to those pursuing courses in Electrical Engineering or Electronic/Computer Technology.

The Rose Ellen Bills Memorial Scholarship pays **\$2,000**.

There is no restriction on the course of study. Applicants must be a resident of the U.S. or its territories pursuing a Bachelor's degree. Minimum license requirement - General Class

There are **three (3) Silent Key Memorial Scholarships**, which pay **\$3,000** each, available to U.S. Residents pursuing any course of study leading to a Bachelor's degree. Preference will be given to residents of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Northern Virginia.

The Ernest L. Walker, WB3DVL, Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the **Baltimore Radio Amateur Televi-**

sion Society pays **\$1,000**.

There is no restriction on the course of study. Applicants must pursue a Bachelor's degree and reside within 150 miles of Baltimore, Maryland. Preference will be given to Maryland residents.

The Tulare County Memorial Scholarship pays **\$1,000**.

Applicants must be working towards a Bachelors or higher degree in engineering or computer science, and be residents of the State of California. Preference will be given to applicants who are living in Tulare County, California and who have not previously received a FAR scholarship.

The Dwight Weller, KB3LA, Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by **Phillip Karn, KA9Q**, pays **\$1,000**.

Applicants must intend to seek a Bachelor's degree in any branch of the engineering or physical sciences. There is no residence requirement.

The WARAC Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the **West Allis Radio Amateur Radio Club, Inc.** Milwaukee, Wisconsin, pays **\$1,500**.

Applicants must be Wisconsin residents pursuing an Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate degree in any course of study.

There are two (2) **Young Ladies' Radio League Memorial Scholarships** that pay **\$1,500** each.

Applicants must hold at least an FCC Technician Class or equivalent foreign authorization and intend to seek a Bachelor's or Graduate degree from a U.S. college or university. There are no residence and preference will be given to female applicants. Preference will be given to students studying communications, electronics, or related arts and sciences. Non-US Amateurs are eligible.

Note: I (WZ8C) edited this announcement & took out some of the legaleze to make it fit on two pages, so for details and more specifics, see the FAR scholarship web page.

FISTS Fall Sprint, 2007 Results

Hello fellow FISTS! Hope everyone is having a great winter and holiday season.

This Sprint was full of surprises. Mostly in the form of heavy and fast QSB.
Glad to see the mix of old and new FISTS members.

73, Dan, N8IE FISTS #4985

QRO Category

| <i>Call</i> | <i>Name</i> | <i>FISTS#</i> | <i>State</i> | <i>Score</i> |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| K8AJS | John | 12366 | OH | 12765 |
| W9LHG | John | 9565 | WI | 9933 |
| K4CZ | Barry | 11374 | NC | 7714 |
| W7GVE | Ed | 12077 | AZ | 6345 |
| KG4W | Ed | 12448 | VA | 6183 |
| K8VFR | Rosemarie | 5602 | MI | 5824 |
| KO4OL | Glenn | 6583 | KY | 5125 |
| K2NPN | Phil | 1988 | NY | 4728 |
| KS0M | Dick | 3067 | MO | 4625 |
| N5XGG | Joseph | 9974 | TX | 3718 |
| VE1ZAC | Jeff | 2048 | NS | 3078 |
| NE8J | Howard | 13142 | FL | 2790 |
| K1TG | Roger | 10462 | CT | 1840 |
| KS4DU | Jim | 4351 | ID | 1650 |
| K9XL | Ray | 8469 | IL | 1610 |
| K9NSS | Gary | 2534 | IL | 1260 |
| AE0G | Larry | 12874 | NE | 1170 |
| W9SJW | John | 10004 | IL | 900 |
| KK0I | Jack | 12743 | WI | 880 |
| NV9X | Jim | 7517 | IL | 750 |
| KA2QIK/7 | Philip | 3504 | AZ | 616 |
| W7DAX | Richard | 12802 | UT | 600 |
| K5ICW | Hank | 8180 | TX | 585 |
| K7WA | James | 13341 | WA | 315 |
| N4DCC | Bill | 12659 | VA | 315 |
| KC8YFG | Bruce | 10521 | MI | 280 |
| VE7EFG | George | 6387 | BC | 280 |
| KB9YGD | Norman | N/A | IN | 125 |
| K4RKN | John | 9922 | AL | 125 |
| KG6MXO | John | 9961 | CA | 125 |
| WA2VQV | Russ | 3179 | DE | 80 |
| W5VDM | William | 12127 | TX | 60 |

Club Category

| <i>Call</i> | <i>Club</i> | <i>FISTS#</i> | <i>ST</i> | <i>Score</i> |
|-------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| W8EOC | Medina 2 Meter Group | 10250 | OH | 22188 |
| WB0RMK | S.M.A.R.T.S. | 10550 | MN | 18019 |
| W4FFF | Fists Club of North Carolina | 9700 | NC | 9164 |
| W9VT | Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club | 11875 | IL | 4800 |
| N2MO | Ocean Monmouth ARC | 11400 | NJ | 4598 |

QRP Category

| <i>Call</i> | <i>Name</i> | <i>FISTS#</i> | <i>State</i> | <i>Score</i> |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| W7JI | Louis | 11079 | KS | 4704 |
| WB0PYF | Ray | 7986 | MO | 4004 |
| VA3RKM | Robert | 11797 | ON | 2160 |
| WA3RML | Andy | 9449 | TX | 1020 |
| NJ1W | David | 12139 | NJ | 825 |
| W4MY | Marty | 10945 | NC | 450 |
| KC2LSD | Cody | 11793 | NJ | 45 |

Fall Sprint Soapbox

Hank, K5ICW, TX FISTS #8180

Lotsa hiss on 20 and not many sigs. Sunspots. Maybe better conditions in Winter Sprint. 50 watts to a CF Zepp.

Norman, KB9YGD, IN FISTS #N/A

Tnx fer the nice time in the sprint es 73 de kb9ygd

Dick, KS0M, MO FISTS #3067

I worked the FISTS contest instead of the several RTTY contests. CW is more fun anyway. 40 M was going great until the end of the contest. I still find many who can not zero beat a signal. Only one who called CQ on top of me when working a call. He did not send QRL? first and should have known better. Worked 15 first time calls. Great fun and looking for the next sprint.

David, NJ1W, NJ FISTS #12139

Used Elecraft K2 running 5 watts to G5RV up 35 feet.

Robert, VA3RKM, ON FISTS #11797

K2, 5w, verticals. Good conditions for QRP from Ottawa. Glad to work so many states, including Jason in the rare ND! Thanks to all for working a weak signal.

Jeff, VE1ZAC, NS FISTS #2048

Lots of fun ! 20M had some strange QSB first 2 hours. Wish there were more participants. Even made one 80M QSO!

Russ, WA2VQV, DE FISTS #3179

Only listened a short time-didn't hear many stations. Better luck next time.

Joseph, N5XGG, TX FISTS #9974

I parked the Icom 746PRO on 14.060 Mhz and waited for 1700 UTC. I called CQ FISTS DE N5XGG K and was rewarded with one QSO after another until 2100 UTC showed on the clock. I had 35 QSOs (33 FISTS / 2 Non-FISTS), with 18 different states, 3 Canadian provinces, and Alaska (DXCC).

I even managed to finally make contact with Delaware to complete my Worked All States. Had a great time, although there was considerable QRM from time to time when some stations did not take the time to find out if there was a QSO in progress.

Also I missed a few calls because they were too far off frequency even after I asked them to zero beat and advised them of which frequency my rig showed. I was using a recently hung 80M horizontal loop with only the rig's internal tuner and I switched back and forth between the paddle and the SKCC straight key depending on speed needed.

Ed, W7GVE, AZ FISTS #12077

Fair conditions (at least not poor or horrible!). My 8th Sprint - always fun for this CW nut. Thanks for what you are doing for the Club!

Philip, KA2QIK/7, AZ FISTS #3504

Conditions were not as bad as I thought they would be. I was able to work almost everyone I could hear.

Rosemarie, K8VFR, MI FISTS #6502

Nice to work so many new members!

George, VE7EFG, BC FISTS #6387

Very poor conditions for this contest here. The only band with any action was 20 meters. Strong QSB on most stations, but I was pleased with my attempts. I have a minimal, not too efficient antenna in the garage here, but it worked into seven states, so something is happening. No Canadian stations heard calling VE1, VE2, and VE3. Here's to better luck in the Winter Sprint.

Andy, WA3RML, TX FISTS #9449

IC-703 @ 5wts to 20M vertical. Operated from back patio using battery power. Beautiful afternoon, but not a lot of contacts. Good fun, though! Thanks for the QSOs!

HOW DO I ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene W08E, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038 is our Supply Manager. Our supplies are sold as close to cost as possible

We offer:

Metallic Gold logo stickers, 200 for \$3.50

I "red heart graphic" CW Stickers, 3/4" round stickers, \$3.50 for 200

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

White enamel cloisonne pin "I (red heart graphic) CW" "FISTS CW CLUB" along edge. 3/4" diameter circle tie-tack type pin on back \$1.50

Embroidered cloth patch of our rectangle key logo, \$1.00. The patches can be ironed on or sewn.

Plastic travel mugs (with lid) with I "heart" CW on both sides in red and blue. \$5.00

Static Clings for car windows; 2 styles - the I 'heart' CW, and the FISTS key logo. 50 cents each. No postage necessary if ordered along with other items. If ordered alone, please include 50 cents for postage/envelope per total Cling order, NOT per cling (example, 1 cling would be \$1, 2 clings would be \$1.50, 5 clings = \$3)

You may use Paypal to order supplies. Send the total amount to fists@tir.com and put the items you would like in the Paypal comments box. Be sure your name & address are included. ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. DO NOT ADD POSTAGE TO YOUR TOTAL (except for orders of just static window clings, add 50 cents)

HOW DO I GET FISTS SHIRTS? Show the world that you are proud to be a FISTS member. We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, and polo shirts. The front of the t-shirts and **sweatshirts** are printed with:

I'm PROUD to be a KNOW CODE Ham

and the backs of the shirts are printed in light blue with the FISTS key logo graphic and

Join the Code Crusade

<http://www.fists.org>

The T-shirts are available in two solid colors: black or royal blue (a medium blue, not navy) **Sweatshirts are gray with royal blue printing on the front and back.** The polo/golf shirts are sky blue with the FISTS key tastefully EMBROIDERED on the top left side. They are short sleeved and have a knit collar and a couple buttons at the neck.

Sizes are small, medium, large, XL, 2XL, and 3XL.(only polos and sweats avail in 3X, **3X T's are sold out and Medium Polos and Medium sweatshirts are sold out**)

All shirts are 50/50 blend. The T's are "Best" Fruit of the Loom. Sweats are 5.8 oz Jerzee and Polos are Fruit of the Loom. Price are: T-shirts = \$6.00 Sweats = \$11.00 Polos = \$15.00

PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. NOTE: Contact WZ8C (nancy@tir.com) for non-USA or bulk order postage.

You may order using Paypal. The email address to use for Paypal is fists@tir.com. Do NOT use nancy@tir.com. In the "comments" box of the Paypal form, please be specific about what you are ordering, since this info will be used to fill your order. To order by mail, send your order (don't forget to include what color tshirt you want, and the size!) to Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

Checks payable to FISTS, Paypal to fists@tir.com.

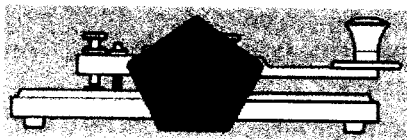
WHAT IS KN0WCW AND HOW DO I OPERATE KN0WCW?

KN0WCW is the USA FISTS Callsign. Members in good standing (meaning, paid up dues) can operate KN0WCW from their home station after getting PERMISSION. To get permission, contact Karl Zuege, KB1DSB (kb1dsb@sover.net). A schedule of operators can be found on the FISTS Web page. Remember, when you're using KN0WCW, you're flying the flag for FISTS, so please operate responsibly.

HOW DO I RENEW MY FISTS SUBSCRIPTION? Send \$15 to FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440. If you have a Paypal account (www.paypal.com) send \$15 to FISTS@tir.com. If you are 80 years of age or older, or if you are under 18, renewals are free, but you need to acknowledge you want to renew.



International Morse Preservation Society



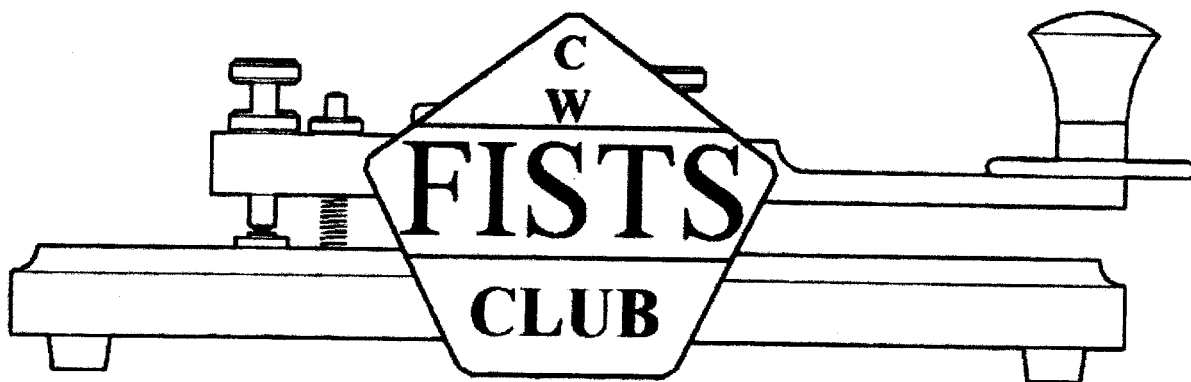
KEY NOTE



Founded in 1987 by the late Geo Longden, G3ZQS

Recommended calling QRGs: 1.818, 3.558, 7028, 10.118, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

WINTER EDITION 2007



Club Goals

Further the use of CW

Encourage newcomers to use Morse Code

Engender Friendships among members

And remember

"Accuracy Transcends Speed , Courtesy at all Times"

EDITOR: M0BMN

Paul Webb, 40 Links Road, Penn, W-TON, WV4 5RF

E-Mail :- paul@fists.co.uk

FISTS UK WEB SITE URL:- [HTTP://WWW.FISTS.CO.UK](http://www.fists.co.uk)

"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend."

FISTS Who's Who?

Many members that I meet at rallies often comment on they have no idea of who does what and so don't know who to contact for their questions. I Hope this helps.

Editor: Paul Webb M0BMN E-mail paul@fists.co.uk Contact Details:-
40 Links Road, Penn,
Wolverhampton WV4 5RF
Tel : 01902 338973

If you have any comments on the content or distribution of Keynotes then I'm your man! Also if you need info about Rallies that we are attending or if you have any articles for publication.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary
John Griffin M0CDL E-mail John@fists.co.uk
35 Cottage Street,
Kingswinford DY6 7QE

If you have questions about subs due or membership applications the please contact John for help.

Activity Manager: Robert Walker M0BPT Email Activitys@fists.co.uk
125, Devereux Road,
West Bromwich., B70 6RQ.

Any comments and feedback about any of the Activities that FISTS run or information for inclusion in the contests and activities section of the newsletter can be sent to Rob.

QSL Manager: Chuck Spence M0AVW E-mail m0avw1@ntlworld.com
Contact Details:-
32 Woodford Walk
Harewood Park,
Thornaby., TS17 0LT

QSL cards and questions about the FISTS QSL Buro should be addressed to Chuck who looks after the Sub managers for different calls

News Group / Forum Manager M0BLT
Mark Waldon E-mail forum@fists.co.uk

Mark looks after the Yahoo group FISTS and can help with any problems you may have with accessing the forum or issues arising from it.

Club Sales Officer: Anne Webb Email Sales@fists.co.uk
40 Links Road, Penn ,
Wolverhampton, WV4 5RF

If you're looking for club badges, QSL cards ,car stickers etc Anne's your Man, err Woman Hi.

There are other people that help with the running of FISTS.
We have a number of QSL Sub managers that are working hard in the background to keep fists alive and well.

G4's.
Mr Jim Steel - M0ZAK
6 CENTRAL AVENUE
Shepsted
LE12 9HP

G3's
Mr Grant Merrils - G0UQF
2 East Street
Darfield
Barnsley
S73 9RE

G1,G2,G5,G6,G7,G8
& Specials.GB,GX etc.
Mr Rob Walker - M0BPT
125 Devereux Road
West Bromwich
B70 6RQ

G0's
Mr Selwyn Auty
3 Rochford Cres
Boston
PE21 9AE

M0's, M5's, M3's 2E0's etc
Mr Glenn Waring - M0AYI
7 Tynedale Terrace.
Annfield Plain
Stanley
Durham
DH9 7TZ

Wales & SWL
Mrs Mandy Spence
32 Woodford Walk
Thornaby
Cleveland
TS17 0LT

EU &DX members. If you wish to receive any qsl cards from stations you have worked, could you please send postage in either UK£, US\$, or Euro to M0AVW. 73. Chuck.

Subscription Information

A number of members have contacted me to ask the amount to pay for their annual subs, and what by what methods they can make payment.

As you may be aware we are attempting to bring all subscriptions in line with a 1st of April renewal date, this means that if your subscription is due before next April we will adjust the amount you pay to bring you in line with a April renewal, you will not be asked to pay any more than the standard yearly subscription and the simple table below should tell you what to pay, if you do have any problems please feel free to call me, (Or email/write if you wish) and I will sort it out for you.

Subscription due between ;

Dec 07-Feb 08 Pay either £1.50 & renew April 08, or £7.50 & renew April 09

Mar– May 08 Pay £6 and renew April each year.

June-July 08 Pay £4.50 and renew April 09

Aug– Nov 08 Pay £3 and renew April 09

Payments can be made the good old way of cash or cheque; (made payable to FISTS) and sent to The membership sec , MOC DL (address on previous page)

Or if you're feeling all modern we can take PayPal payments to subs@fists.co.uk but whatever way you pay please include your fists membership number with the payment.

Any overpayments will be considered a donation and are always very gratefully received !

Welcome....

Greens are turning brown and the summer sun is hiding behind winter skies again, Christmas is just around the corner and its time for the last Keynote of the year.

It's been a busy few months for me, I must say I never seem to have the free time I plan to have. I decided to enrol on a couple of courses at the local college , maths and English! It was many years ago when I did these and so decided that it was time to do a refresher. So that's two nights a week taken up till May.

Looking back over this year we have attended a number of rallies and had chance to talk to many members. One thing that we have heard time and time again is that many members will not go on air as they fear that their CW is not good enough to use on air, many are capable of 5-10wpm but still say that they cannot find anyone to chat with at that speed and others will not slow down to match their speed. Every rally we attended people told us the same story many times. So come on everyone, if you hear anyone around our frequencies operating slow CW please reply at the same speed that they are calling. If we could get these members on air we would really be achieving something I feel.

In order to help these slower operators I recently spoke to Ofcom about obtaining a new club call sign that we could use as a slow CW station. The official at Ofcom was very helpful, and in fact gave me a special call sign since it was for such a good cause. He gave me GB2SCW (Slow CW). This call sign will be on air from about the time that you get this edition. The SCW station will only operate QRS CW, it can only operate from my QTH I'm sorry to say and having had a play on the ladder its clear than on 80m I am struggling to put out a decent signal, and maybe a contest is not the best place for such a station. I intend to use this call on 30m only, on 30m I can put out a very nice signal. 30m is a quieter band than 40m and so I hope that anyone that wants to work the slow station will be able to without fighting for band space.

Another issue that a number of people have emailed me and other FISTS helpers about is bad English. I accept that I am not the best when it comes to English grammar. From the next edition I have a new proof reader on board. I've never claimed to be anything more than what I am, I'm an engineer not a writer. I have given serious consideration to resigning from the post of editor and letting someone else take over. But for now I intend to carry on. I hope that with the help of the new proof reader Keynote will have less mistakes ! Hi

Now more pleasant things..

We would be very interested in hearing from members to which rallies in 2008 they would like us to attend. We will attend Elevaston Castle, Donnington, and the QRP Club Meeting, that means we could attend another 1 or 2 if members want it, let me know!

I have now only have a few articles for the newsletter so if you have been sitting on something, now is the time to send it in to me. I have a few articles on antenna topics and I was hoping to include them in this edition but with the 2008 contest rules I am very low on space.

We now have a special callsign given us by the very nice people at Ofcom GB2SCW, to help with our drive to get more people on air. The station will only run QRS and even if you are happy to work faster CW please keep it below 12 wpm if you work the station, we have many members who just listen and try to decode the Morse they hear and this station should help them learn and get on air themselves.

A little note from Anne (the XYL and Club Sales)

Can you make sure you put a note in with your cheques telling her what you want to order, she has had a few cheques with an address and that's all so please make sure you let her know what you are ordering.

By the way we are nearly out of QSL cards and so there may be a delay in supplying these while we get new ones made. Ring if you want to check before ordering, (01902 338973)

We now can offer a FREE CW learning course on CD, its in mp3 format due to being around 20 hrs long on one disk. The CD is free, just send a stamped addressed Envelope with postage to cover the return (A5 Size please for the CD) or send £1 to cover costs via post (or paypal to sales@fists.co.uk) together with your address and Anne will send you a disk. If you really want we would be happy to receive any donations to help with the production cost of the disks but that's up to you. We are happy to send the disk to none members too.

Anyway that's about it from me, all that is left is to wish you all the best for Christmas and hope that you have a peaceful new year.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION FROM THE FISTS REFLECTOR

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fistscw>

Well, here we are once again folks, who would believe that 2007 is nearly through!! I was only saying in the last edition of Keynote that we'd all soon be caught up in the mad rush for Christmas! I'm sure that you're already growing weary of all the TV adverts and shops "stuffing it down your throat!" Still I hope that Santa delivers you some nice piece of radio kit for being good!!

Ok first off, and apologies if this has already been mentioned elsewhere in Keynote, the FISTS website has been revamped by Paul and certain areas are password protected for members only. If you would like to gain access then drop Paul a line at paul@fists.co.uk who will be happy to help out. There have been quite a few members asking via the list but you need to contact Paul direct. Thanks.

ABSORPTION WAVE METER

Hi all

I am at present studying for my full licence and on Friday we did wavemeters. I was wondering does anybody have any plans (3.5 – 30 MHz) or know where I can get some to homebrew a wavemeter, an easy one as I am not brilliant with a soldering iron hi hi.

Many thanks again before hand

Dave 2E0NCB 12510

Dave's an active member of the reflector and I'm sure would appreciate any assistance with the above request. Nice to see him working towards the "Full" licence and in particular taking an interest in "Homebrew

HELP WITH INCREASING SPEED AND PADDLE - ADVICE

I wonder if any of the faster ops here could give me some help or hints.

I'm very keen to improve my CW speed. Just now I'm reasonably comfortable at copying near 100% at 15 wpm but I still have to concentrate. I can copy a lot of 18 wpm but with odd gaps.

I'm still using a straight key and can do about 13 - 14 wpm. I think the sending is probably ok because the CW decoder on the PC can read my sending. I really seem to struggle with the paddle, even with the keyer set at 13 wpm. I make a lot of mistakes (Usually extra dits). Despite practice, the paddle key errors kept coming. So I went back to the straight key.

Problem is I seem to have reached a plateau in both straight key sending speed and copying speed - I doubt either has improved much in 6 months. I use the Koch trainer by G4FON as well as RufzXP.

So: how can I copy faster? And should I quit with the straight key or not? I don't want to be a speed demon but would like to get up to 25wpm if I can. Tnx es 73

Pete GMOWEZ

Only one way to achieve this----Practice Practice Practice--Listen Listen Listen preferably at a much greater speed than you can comfortably copy--stretch yourself.

Chris GOHFX #0236

I'm no speed demon either and maybe not qualified to say, But, Practice practice practice. You want to listen to good code like W1AW or tape keep varying the speed. I'm told it's the best way to learn code without writing it down. I could never do that myself. Too many dead brain cells maybe.

As far as the paddle is concerned, beside practice I'm told sending names and numbers from a telephone book works. Make sure the errors are caused by you and not RF on the keyer leads. Most of all HAVE FUN!!!!

Good luck

Mike

WB2KKI

I like the Farnsworth style of G4FON trainer and Nu-Morse.

Always set the character-speed (code-speed) faster than the effective-speed or word-speed.

So if you want to build up to 25 wpm, set the character-speed to 25 wpm, and learn to copy that even if you have to space it out to 9wpm to start.

Then, keeping the same 25wpm character-speed, increase the effective (Or word) speed from 9 to 12 to 15 to 18 to 21 to 25.

As you increase the character-speed on G4FON trainer, the effective-speed choices change and use smaller steps between levels.

I think that is what Farnsworth style is all about. Start the character-speed at your high goal then you just shorten the spacing between characters.

KC9BRZ

These were just a few of the suggestions that came forward on the reflector. Do you have any further ideas? If so, then why not join up and offer them? Better still consider an article for publication in Keynote...just a page of ideas will suffice....

For my few pence worth and I'm sure most will agree, the important thing is to keep plugging away and get plenty of practice in!!!

Never forget the FISTS motto though –

“Accuracy transcends Speed”

Better to send good quality slow Morse than poor fast gibberish!!

POLLS

Question

When the bands are performing well and are open, which band is favourite for you to use?

Responses

| Choices | Votes | % |
|-------------|-------|----|
| 80 M | 4 | 8 |
| 40 M | 6 | 13 |
| 30 M | 10 | 22 |
| 20 M | 9 | 20 |
| 17 M | 5 | 11 |
| 15 M | 7 | 15 |
| 12 M | 0 | 0 |
| 160 M | 1 | 2 |
| 10 M | 3 | 6 |
| 6 M | 0 | 0 |
| VHF upwards | 0 | 0 |

Well, we certainly love 30 M that's for sure! It seems poor old 12 M leaves a lot

Question

What are your feelings on contests?

Responses

| Choices | Votes | % |
|--|-------|----|
| I love contesting and take part in as many as I can! | 2 | 3 |
| There are too many now and are nuisances! | 13 | 25 |
| They are bearable IF band plans are adhered to. | 17 | 33 |
| They don't really bother or interest me. | 4 | 7 |
| I enjoy taking part in some contests. | 15 | 29 |

Interesting and informative results above. Still seems that operators have mixed feelings on contests! If only band plans were adhered to, then most would be happier!

Ok...time to leave you all in peace! I hope you all have a great Christmas and a very peaceful 2008. Take it easy and see you in the New Year

Cheers for now,

73, Mark - BLT

From The Membership Sec'

Hi, welcome to my ramblings! Well its almost Christmas, where did the year go? It really doesn't seem that long since Paul and myself were at the Elvaston rally! Then there was the Flooding at the end of July, I hope the members that were caught in the floods are at last drying out and the insurance companies have paid for your new radio gear! We met a lot of members at the Donnington rally and also had quite a few new members join us. I hope the organisers took notice of the emails and comments in the amateur radio magazines about holding one of the biggest Amateur Radio Rallies in the U.K on the same weekend as a race day! The noise in the hall was deafening, some folks had to queue for nearly FOUR Hours to get in on Saturday, Well done to those who did. We also went along to the QRP Convention in Rochdale in October, it's the last time that the rally will be held at St Aidens church hall, as the Rev George Dobbs, G3RJV retires this year, Quite a few of our members are also members of the Gqrp club, and came up on to the stage to where the Fists Stand was and said hello, We also had a few new members join, and with that, The new members list:-

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 13219 MM0MRM Moe | 13220 G7UWP Phil |
| 13221 DL3RL Tom | 13222 G4DGB Terry |
| 13223 M1AGY Jules | 13224 G8JNF Duncan |
| 13225 G4BXT Paul | 13226 G0KOK Peter |
| 13227 M3ZVI Frank | 13228 G3NCN John |
| 13229 G6FDI Ray | 13230 GB2SCW Club* |
| 13231 M3WCK Colin | 13232 G3VUS David |
| 13233 G0FXL Dan | 13234 G14FUE Charlie |
| 13235 G4PJG Allan | 13236 G4JZV Bob |
| 13237 G4GIM Brian | 13238 G4CCB Tony |
| 13239 G4CVC John | 13240 G4DMP David |
| 13241 G4VXV Roy | 13242 M0MJH Mark |
| 13243 M0JCD John | 13244 M0VBD Bob |
| 13245 G7VJQ Chris | 13246 ON4WIX Glenn |
| 13247 M0GHQ Max | 13248 G4MSN Ray |

13249 LA1ENA Age
13251 GI3ZMX Frank
13253 2E0JCY John
13255 DF8XZ Pit
13257 2E0LMA Lee
13259 M???? David***
13261 G4CGG Richard
13263 ON4AUB Francois

13250 G0FOI Russell
13252 G0TAK Roy
13254 2E0RIO Sarah**
13256 G0KDJ Jim
13258 G8HI Ken
13260 GM4TOE Barry
13262 G0BAK Bill

*GB2SCW is a club call for FISTS; we intend to (Hopefully) use it around once a week for slow CW, we were quite surprised to find, after talking to some members that they are shy to get on the key, we hope to try and encourage them on and send using this club call sign, if you feel you would like to have a go on the key, but you think the other operator will not slow down enough for you, listen out for the call sign and give it a go.

** 2E0RIO Sarah is the Grand Daughter of the late G3BOK Bill Rennington, she has passed her intermediate exam, and is now studying hard on the full licence exam, when she passes she is going to apply for her Grandfathers call sign, I hope you join with me in wishing her all the luck in the world.

*** David has joined us, even though he is still studying his Foundation licence and hasn't got a call sign yet! Again hope you have every success David, I look forward to updating you all very soon on the progress of Sarah and David.

Now on to the sad news received regarding the passing of society members.

I've received news from Ray G0UKX informing of the passing of David **G3VNG 1097**. Dave was living in Spain.

I've also been informed of the passing of Stan **G3RNB 3731**.

Also Buck **G0OYH 1078**. Buck was quite active on the fists reflector.

Mick G3LIK reported the passing of Chris **G0WKJ 2239**.

I had a letter from Mr G. Godfrey, the son of **Eric G3GC**; informing me of his Fathers passing, Gordon goes on to say "My father was always a keen CW man who promoted its use by providing slow Morse classes over the air for many years, I hope the skill may long remain, because proficiency is gained over many hours practising and

is not something that can be purchased" **Eric G3GC was No 68**. Thanks Gordon, our thoughts are with you.

Another letter from G8GWB informing us of the passing of **Geoff, G8MYI 2274** in October.

Finally, from Mrs A. King informing of the passing of her husband **Don G0IJE**. Audrey goes on to say he had a long illness and passed away in January, just before her 79th birthday, he would have been 80 in November, Audrey is licensed and holds the call G0IRL; she says that she doesn't send too good these days and how they both used to help others learn the code and go on to pass the Morse Test, I'm sure you will join with me offering our thoughts and prayers to Audrey and the families and friends of our former members,

Thank you,
John M0CDL, Membership Sectary

The Perseus key by GØPEH.

First, why did I call it the Perseus key, well a lot of the material I used for its construction was 6mm Perspex sheet, hence the name I adopted? Whilst this is not a 'how to make one yourself' instruction sheet I just give you some idea of how I made it.

First I should say that after using a Vibroflex key belonging to my pal Mike G4VEC I liked its action using magnets to control the spring tension of the paddles.

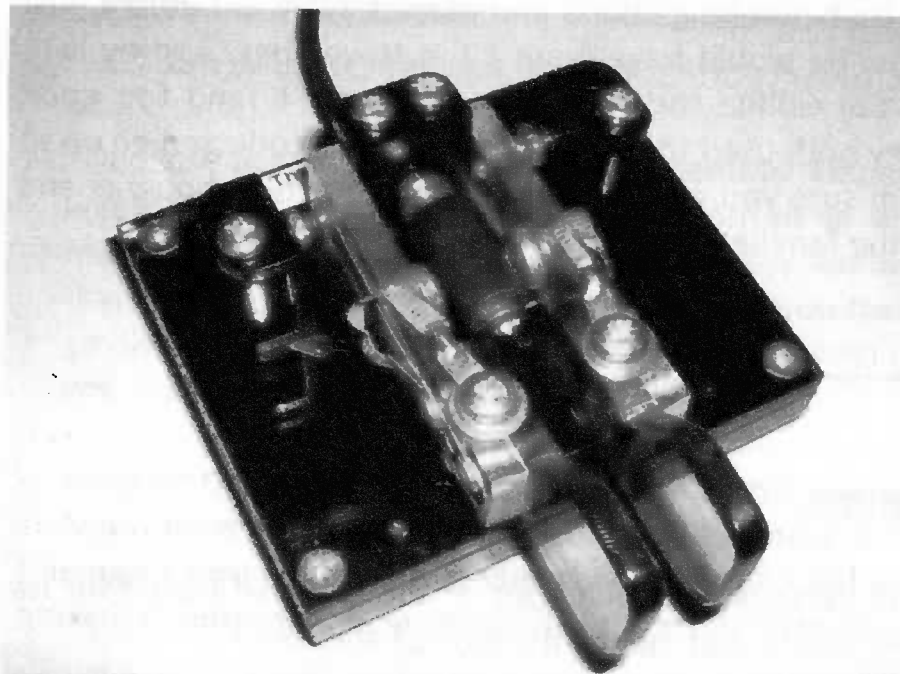
With that in mind and when replacing a small armature in our pond pump found that the one I removed was very magnetic. This started me thinking of how I could use this in a homebrew key.

If you now look at the top view in the photo you will see that the tubular magnet is mounted centrally and horizontal at the centre. Each paddle is made of Perspex and has a large headed 4mm screw adjacent the magnet. This is attracted by said magnet to keep paddles in the rest position.

Each paddle has a finger rescued from a large GPO type relay along the side with its contact at the business end. The contact on this line's up with a second contact soldered to the end of a 4mm screw to adjust the working gap held in those black pieces.

To carry the connection from paddle finger to the fulcrum pin of each paddle I used the very small copper braid. (In fact this braid is solder wick which is ideal.) This pin gives the cable connection beneath the top Perspex layer.

For the base I used 2 squares of Perspex, top one carries the workings. The second one below this has its centre part removed to accommodate the connections for the wiring.



To complete the base and to make it heavy and to give good stability I used 3rd and 4th layers of sheet lead and final layer is sheet aluminium for strength. Sprayed black and with rubber feet it seems to work very well.

On test the first time using my favourite qrp rig I worked a DL9, a Fist member followed

by a qso with an F5 who was a GQRP member so well pleased with that as you can imagine.

GD all,

I've just been reading Morseman's column in the July/August issue of NZART's Break-In magazine. He includes a link to a website that may be of interest.

<http://mikea.ath.cx/www.n1ea.coastalradio.org.uk/index.html>

It includes some "final night" recordings made by various coastal stations when they signed off their 500 kHz maritime transmissions for the last time.

73 de Andrew
FISTS 9801
GSWL 5

Handed on a Plate

Working as a Telegrapher within the busy offices during the early 1900's would have been very much a great strain.

A strain not only on the telegrapher and his family, but also on his mind and body.

Telegraphers often had to send and receive as much as 25,000 words in a single shift, this brought about the daily strain not only on the mind, but a great strain on their arm, as using the key repeatedly day after day produced for many, excruciating pain.

This today would be referred to as repetitive strain injury, back in these days it was called telegraphers paralysis or glass arm, yes and would you believe it they even sold a liniment for the treatment of this condition, but I doubt that it did any good, as this medical condition known as Carpel tunnel syndrome is most often rectified by surgery.

Horace G Martin this very well known Vibroplex inventor, was considered to be one of the very best telegraphers within the USA of that period, and that is why I very much suspect that one of the main reasons for the invention of his Martin Auto-plex, and then a little later the very well known Vibroplex Original. I believe this was very much due to the fact that Martin was himself, suffering from this dreaded condition of Telegrapher paralysis/ Glass arm.

1904 saw the introduction of Martins semi-automatic original, which later, people were to call a bug!

The semi-Automatic not only improved speed, but it also helped alleviate the strain imposed on the sender over a prolong period, Once the Major Telegraph companies, like the western union etc. had come to accept change, and to allow their operators to use this new found technology, in the form of the Vibroplex Original.

Other companies then jumped on the bandwagon and rushed in with their own products.

These non Vibroplex Keys were merely copies of the Vibroplex original and Martin as you can imagine was not very happy, as they were to infringe on his Patent Nr 842,154 that was filed on April 16th 1906 .

James Eugene Albright a typewriter and Telegraph instrument shop owner who had the sole selling agent rights of Martins Vibroplex Bugs. He threatened to prosecute the Manufacturers of these illegal copy bugs. Albright even considered bringing prosecution suits against the individual users of these bugs.

Frustrated and very much annoyed, Albright was to come up with the idea of allowing the operator to use their bugs, providing they pay a two Dollar licence fee.

After payment was complete, a plate was affixed to the key in question allowing continual use of the instrument.

These B*****d bugs as their operators often called them, proved to be very well made by some of the companies or small shops that were to produce them, But the makers name and the company of these bugs are very difficult to identify to the modern day key collector. This was due to the fact that the original plate would have been removed when Albrights licence plate was affixed, But the maker of an illegal bug to a Vibroplex collector is unimportant the Albright Plate makes an historical addition to their collection of Vibroplex Keys

These bugs that had the licence plate affixed were commonly called **Albright Bugs** but Albright did not in fact make them,

The plate actually states this, it makes reference as;

**This machine is licensed,
But NOT Guaranteed NOR Manufactured by
J.E.ALBRIGHT
253 BROADWAY, NEW YORK**

Albright was a very sharp businessman, and knowing about Martins patents had control of the market, he had the **only legal keys** that were used by the Western Union and the Postal Telegraph,

Eventually Albright was to acquire the patent rights of Martins Keys and in 1915 he was to acquire ownership of the Vibroplex company, this was run until 1978 by Albrights family,

Two styles of license Plates can be found, at first glance they do appear to be the same but they have the wording reversed

**This Machine is NOT guaranteed NOR Made
But only licensed by
J.E.ALBRIGHT
253 Broadway, New York**

So in the history of the Vibroplex J.E Albright plays a very important part in the running of the company, as he and his family run the company for over 63yrs in relation to the short period of Horace G martin

Ray Bullock GOEML Fists 3774

--- SOS ---

The North Sea in a winter storm can be one of the most dangerous places on earth. I have sailed through the Bay of Biscay, the Great Australian Bight, the Southern Ocean and across the Pacific, but believe me, the combination of the shallow North Sea and a northerly gale can leave you with experience to remember for the rest of your life.

It was such a foul night in December 1954 when the 12000 ton tanker "British Birch" sailed from the UK. It was my first trip in charge as an 18 year old Radio Officer, and the sequence of events are as clear today as they were more than 50 years ago.



"A fully laden tanker has very little freeboard and waves wash straight across the deck"

In those days oil tankers had two basic trade routes. The first route was loading crude oil from the Persian Gulf or Venezuela for transporting back to the huge refineries in the UK and the second route was transporting refined oil to the storage and distribution points throughout the UK and Europe. Both cargos are dangerous and strict safety rules apply on all tankers; no naked flames, no metal tipped shoes, no metal tools (only soft brass) no lighters, only special gas proof torches etc. Fumes from the cargo (kept heated for easy distribution) have a pungent aroma. One dropped tool, one spark from a shoe and 10,000 tons of petrol can turn the ship into a fireball.

Of the two cargos, crude oil is similar to black treacle and more difficult to ignite, whereas refined products such as Petroleum spirit, Aviation fuel, Paraffin, and Turpentine are highly volatile.

Fully loaded with refined products, we sailed from the Isle of Grain refinery in the Thames estuary. Our destination was Denmark and Sweden where we were scheduled to discharge our cargo into various oil storage depots in the Baltic.

However fate had another schedule planned for us, when around midnight the ships engines stopped and we were rendered helpless in a force nine gale. Under normal circumstances the breakdown of a ships engines is a fairly routine affair, this happens often with cargo ships and merely results in hoisting two black balls to indicate to passing ships that you are not under command, whilst the ships engineers repair the problem. To the crews of some "budget" shipping lines of those days these balls were sarcastically known as the company's "House Flag".

Unfortunately for us the situation was far from routine. Our QTH was 10 miles North-east of Skagen – the northerly tip of Denmark - and this was not a temporary breakdown. A major fault had occurred in the main engine lubrication system, with the result that the bearings had overheated and melted. We were not going to re-start the engines.

Under normal circumstances we would have notified company headquarters in Finsbury Circus and drifted around until towed to port by another company ship or a tug hired for the purpose. However the year was 1954 – less than 10 years after the end of World War II,

when the Germans laid thousands of mines around the coast of Denmark. Apart from approaches to ports, most of these had not yet been cleared and were marked in red on the Admiralty chart labelled "Danger - keep clear - Mined area". With a force nine Northerly gale we were being blow straight into the largest of these areas. This was not the best place to be for a ship laden with 12,000 tons of highly flammable petroleum products. Even if we missed the mines the rocky coast of Denmark would be our next destination.

In those days Morse code was the only method of shipboard communication and it was with shaking fingers that I adjusted the blue MF knobs on the Marconi "Oceanspan" transmitter, tuned the copper slug to the international distress frequency of 500 Kc/s, switched the Marconi 365 Morse key to the main transmitter and sent "SOS de GCBZ BRITISH BIRCH 57.49 NORTH 10.01 EAST = ENGINES FAILED DRIFTING ONTO THE COAST OF DENMARK IN STORM FORCE WINDS = IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE REQUIRED"

All hell broke loose.

I received immediate acknowledgements from Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, German, Belgian, Dutch, French and UK coast stations, plus a couple of ships in the area. I was also deluged with messages from Headquarters, Lloyds of London, and salvage companies. Fortunately, another British tanker was just a few hours steaming away and reached us at daybreak. We now had two fully laden oil tankers in a mined area.

It took a nerve racking four hours in a force nine gale, with the coastline creeping ever closer, before a towing line could be attached to our anchor chain. First the rescue ship steamed around us firing her rocket lines, but with both vessels fully laden and us rolling and pitching uncontrollably they could not risk a collision by coming too close. A fully laden tanker has very little freeboard and high waves wash straight across the deck, so all rockets either missed their target or caught in the rigging and broke before they could be retrieved. A similar scenario ensued with our rocket lines when the rescue ships' rockets were exhausted. All communications with the rescue ship were conducted by CW on 500 Kc/s, with every other coast station and ship in the north sea remaining silent. This was before the days of VHF.

Finally, in desperation, the rescue ship threw a lifebelt over the side with a line attached and by careful manoeuvring up-wind managed to steer the line to drift within our reach, which was quickly hauled aboard, attached to a winch and a thick manila towing line hauled on board. Only then was I able to advise Danish control coast station OXZ that the distress traffic was over and communications returned to normal.

We were then towed back to Smith's yard on the Tyne where we all enjoyed a couple of weeks extra leave. It was to be another eight years before I was called upon to send SOS once more...

Roy Clayton

G4SSH *Thanks Roy, sorry for the delay in printing this .Paul M0BMN*

Below are articles taken from FISTS Down under Newsletter .reproduced with kind permission from our FISTS Down under Chapter.

FISTS DOWN UNDER Newsletter – October 2007

HELP PLEASE?

Jack-VK2CJC/MM0AXL #9666 is looking for information on the key pictured below.



It's a standard WT 8amp military service key, this one made by LMK & Co in 1940. I'm sure you have seen a hundred of them.

Jack's question is. Why does is the knob extended up like that? I have spoken to several people very knowledgeable and experienced in key collecting, and nobody has been able to tell me. In fact this key always invites offers of cash, as key collectors want it for their display

next to their other 20 WT 8 amps, because this one is different!

What I know about it is - My father, whose hobby is collecting and restoring WW2 trucks, bought it for me for 2 pounds from a military surplus supplier at a military vehicle show in Durham UK, in 1983. He bought it because he knew I would find it interesting and as a joke. He says "I've got you something for your radio station". I had a HF receiver and an FM only CB radio at the time! However I surprised him by using it to have CW contacts 10 years later.

SHOPPING IN THAILAND

Barry Kirkwood, ZL1DD # 9029

No, this is not about silks or gemstones, but about radio and electronics shopping in Thailand. Firstly, forget about bargain ham gear. Ham transceivers in Thailand are subject to heavy import duty, must belong to a list of approved types, and there is no market for ham equipment as such. Also computers, cameras etc., from recognised manufacturers cost much the same as back in ZL and are likely to speak Thai. So what is the good news?

All the accessories, headsets, webcams etc are very cheap up here. Legally questionable DVDs, CDs, Software available everywhere at low prices. Best bought from stalls inside major malls, quality control of stuff from street stalls questionable. Convenience stores sell also sell bargain CDs and DVDs, low prices, good quality, might even be legal. The Mecca for electronic parts and related gear are the sois Ban Mor and Klong Thom in Chinatown, Bangkok. It's a Fun place to browse around while the family cruise the amazing BKK shopping malls. You can get speakers re-coned on the side of the road there, while you wait!

Most sellers know enough English to quote prices. Learn to bargain. 60% of asking price is a good place to start for a beginner. There are proper component shops, do not know the ones in BKK, know a good one in Chiang Mai. Small component packs very cheap and you can buy bargain kit-sets for electronic gadgets of all descriptions.

All major Thai cities have big malls specialising in computers and related products, often include general electronic stuff. Thai sound equipment generally of very good quality and bargain price. Many big name brands of home entertainment equipment are manufactured in Thailand. If you are into building sound equipment, components like speakers, crossovers, amp boards etc very good and very cheap. A good place to check out home entertainment gear is at the major department stores like Robinsons. Fixed price, but they will often throw in accessories with the deal, sometimes without being asked. Also these stores can arrange refund of G.S.T. (7%). You take the goods and receive a refund at the airport when you leave.

Georg Goerge, VK2DLF # 9052

(News about Georg from Chris Thompson, VK2CTN)

Hi Chris, hope all is fine with you. here well there is some bad news and a lot of good news. Let's start with the bad news. I haven't done CW for 2 years, because I have been working a lot in that time and my health hasn't been that good and you know I am suffering from CFS. But now for the good news - My health is getting better and my Morse key business is so good, I never would have thought it possible. I had a lot of work to do, making drawings and plans for all the products I have now. All the measurements have to be absolutely correct. Only that way can one work efficiently. Now I have a good program on keys, bugs and even a paddle, which is very important to me. I don't know if you have had a look at my website lately, but there are a few things available now. In June the American Radio Magazine CQ had an article about my keys and the response was unbelievable. Having done all the work, now my life is going back to normal, that means that I have time again for the hobby's like CW and a view other things. In November, I will buy myself an Elecraft K1 in kit form, as you know that is a CW only rig. Once I get that rig working, there will be a K2 on the shopping list. Again in kit form and a CW only version, which I will again build!

If you and Ralph thought I might have fallen to sleep, your worries were unfounded. It's the other way around. I haven't been awake yet. Hi Hi! Sorry for being late with my renewal. On another note, I have said for many years, that when CW is abolished from the exams, it will suddenly come alive and will be really popular. Well that is exactly what is happening. I have so many enquiries about my products and often just an email from people who have made there licence only so they can do

Morse Code!

By the way there is a review about my Bug at Eham.net.

<http://www.eham.net/reviews/review/56945>

FISTS Downunder Newsletter – November 2007

VK2CTN-Chris #9057 our man in Australia left on 22 October for a long visit to Britain. He returns in mid-December. We wish him well. He goes clutching a list of UK FISTS members and it is hoped he will manage a few eyeball QSOs there. We are promised a report on his return. **VK4TJ-John #9080** has undertaken the postal distribution of newsletters to Australian members while Chris is on holiday. – Thanks John. At the time of writing there are not many QSL cards on hand for VK Members so I (Nigel, ZL2TX) will hold them until Chris returns.

ONE MAN'S BID TO SAVE MORSE CODE

Michael M. Phillips in the Wall Street Journal of 8 October 2007.

Chuck Adams taps out a message. - At the age of 15 -- inspired by his father, a ham-radio operator -- he taught himself Morse code from a book. At the time, ham operators had to transcribe Morse code at a rate of five words per minute in order to earn the most basic federal license. Soon young Mr. Adams was spending every night sending coded messages to anyone who could hear them, and eavesdropping on UPI news dispatches broadcast to ships. Many other radio amateurs use voice transmissions, but Mr. Adams preferred code, because of the challenge -- and because he thinks his voice is too high and his West Texas accent too twangy.

Mr. Adams completed a PhD, won tenure at the University of North Texas, worked high-powered jobs in the defence and computer industries, and dabbled in the professional poker circuit. But he never lost his love for Morse code. The code is the creation of a painter, Samuel F.B. Morse, who needed a way to transmit messages over the telegraph that he and Alfred Vail had invented. In 1844, the men famously sent a transmission from Washington to Baltimore that read, "What hath God wrought?" The telegraph soon replaced the pony express. As late as World War II, ham operators found themselves using their Morse skills as radiomen in the military. During the Vietnam War, POW Jeremiah Denton, later a U.S. senator from Alabama blinked "T-O-R-T-U-R-E" in Morse code when his captors put him on television. But over time, the telephone and satellites have rendered Morse code almost obsolete. "If the satellites go out and power goes out, Morse code can still get through," says Nancy Kott, president of a code club called FISTS -- someone who sends good code has "a good fist." "All we need is a battery and two wires to tap together, and we can communicate."

In February, the Federal Communications Commission eliminated the Morse requirements for ham-radio licenses. Mr. Adams resigned from a ham-operators organization because of what he saw as its flaccid defence of Morse code. "It is a sad state of affairs when the U.S. doesn't even attempt to keep the language alive or give an incentive to work on it," says Mr. Adams. Chuck Adams is tied for 8th fastest Morse code communicator in the world. WSJ's Michael Phillips meets him at his home in the Arizona desert to find out how and why he keeps up the code culture. Many of those who still know Morse code test their skills with a German computer game called RUFZ, the standard for determining world transcription-speed rankings.

Players listen to coded, five-character call signs, combinations of letters, symbols and numbers that identify individual license holders. The faster and more correctly they type them, the more points they score. (Transcribing in handwriting is much slower.)

Last month in Belgrade, Goran Hajosevic broke 200 words per minute -- an extraordinary pace. Mr. Adams is tied for eighth in the world, at more than 140 words per minute.

Scanning the list recently of the 60 fastest Morse coders under the age of 20, Mr. Adams spotted just two with American issued call signs. "What this shows me is in the United States, we have no one who's interested in learning Morse code anymore," he lamented.

Mr. Adams and other Morse aficionados don't speak of dots and dashes; that imagery is too visual, and Morse is an aural language. So they prefer to describe the language in dits and dahs, the sounds of the short and long tones. A, for instance, is dit dah. B is dah dit dit dit, or simply dah dididit. Between two letters, the sender allows a three-dit silence. Between words it grows to seven dits.

Like all Morse experts, Mr. Adams rarely breaks signals down into letters, instead hearing complete words much as readers recognize words on a page. When he transcribes a message at high speeds, his fingers are five or 10 words behind his ears. When he is "in the zone" he isn't even conscious of what he is transcribing, he says. He has to read it

later to understand the message. When he listens to one of his books, the code is like a voice speaking to him. "It's like you don't count the i's when someone says Mississippi," he explains. He produces his audio books to play at different speeds, depending on the expertise of the buyer. Ken Moorman's bedtime listening is Mr. Adams's 25-word-per-minute version of "The War of the Worlds," which he purchased for \$10.50.

"It's so much easier to pick up a microphone and yell," says Mr. Moorman, a 65-year-old retired electrical engineer in Williamsburg, Va., and a coder since 1957. "The people who do [Morse code] today do it because it's a lost art."

Earlier this year, Mr. Adams sent Barry Kutner, a 50-year-old ophthalmologist from Newtown, Pa., and another world class coder, obtained a 100-words-per-minute version of the book. To Mr. Adams's chagrin, Mr. Kutner wrote an email back pointing out that the gap between words was eight dits long, instead of the prescribed seven. At that pace, a dit

lasts 1.2 one-thousandths of a second. Much as he did growing up in Texas, Mr. Adams enjoys sitting in front of a gray radio, not much bigger than a hardcover book, and sending code with a \$500, Italian, stainless-steel, paddle-style key that he operates with a pinching motion.

With the slightest touch of his right thumb on one paddle, the key sends an audible dit. A touch of his right pointer finger on the other paddle sends a dah. His wife, Phyllis, 62, doesn't begrudge him his long hours in front of the radio. "I'm just glad he has something to keep him busy," she says. "All my friends with retired husbands complain they follow them around the house all day."

One recent Sunday morning, Mr. Adams's radio came alive with Morse tones. It was a guy named Gary McClain in Pryor, Okla. The transmissions were pretty slow, just 22 words per minute. McClain, a 65-year-old retired mill worker, learned Morse code in the Boy Scouts half a century ago. He had nothing urgent in mind; he just wanted to make contact with someone far away. "Weather here is cloudy and chance of showers," he tapped, as Mr. Adams transcribed the words in a notebook. McClain signed off, and the radio went silent. "It will eventually die," Mr. Adams mused. "I'll hate to see it go. I won't have anybody to talk to. I'll have to go back to reading."

Thanks to The chaps from down under;- Paul MOBMAN

I hope to bring articles from fists down under and East Asia in future editions and I will be including them in their complete glory rather than the cut down versions stating from the next keynote so look out for that.

We get many new members that ask us for help with many of the abbreviations and terms that get used on the air today, below is a list of many of the common ones that are in use today

COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|-------|-------------|
| AM | Morning | B4 | Before |
| CONDX | conditions | ERE | Here |
| ES | and | EVNG | Evening |
| FB | Fine Business | FER | For |
| FM | from | MEBBE | Maybe |
| NITE | Night | PM | Afternoon |
| PSE | Please | TMW | Tomorrow |
| TNKS (TNX) | Thanks | TR | There |
| TT | That | U R | You are |
| UR (YR) | Your | VMT | Many thanks |
| VY | Very | WL | Will |
| YSTDY | Yesterday | CFM | Confirm |

This is just a brief list, there are many more but generally they should be self-explanatory. If you are discussing cricket for instance, WKT would easily be interpreted as wicket but it would leave the EU station that knows nothing of the game completely in the cold so; be selective. As a general rule, ditch the vowels. A lot of operators are using MM for 'ch' thus: VY MUMM (very much). You will also hear an abbreviated version of numerals (A=1, U=2, N=9, T=0) and 1230 becomes AUV0. Of these however only N(9) and T(0) are in common use. Note that words ending in 'TION' are often abbreviated to XN thus: traction becomes TRAXN. It doesn't work with 'em all though so be selective. All this is in the name of brevity, which of course is highly desirable, but unless both operators are in accord, it is futile. If in doubt, stick to plain language.

The simplest way to ask a question is to make a statement and tack a jug handle on the end: YOU GO DOC? (Are you going to the Doctor)? This back to front approach is what causes beginners to buy more aspirins than any other aspect of CW working.

Another one, which you will hear, is the substitution of a leading hard 'C' with 'K': KONFUSED. The very valid criticism here is that it saves only one dit and I plead guilty but only because it is a long-standing habit that I find difficult to drop.

WHAT WAS THAT AGAIN?

How many times have we heard "SRI OM PLEASE REPEAT YOUR NAME de <Call>". So much simpler to say 'SRI=NAME? BK' (the = sign is the barred BT). Any repeat request can be dealt with thus: SRI=QTH? Or AGN FISTS NR? Etc.

ERRORS

Yes, we all make 'em. The rule here is: don't waste time correcting errors, which are obvious. Credit the other guy with sufficient intelligence to know what you mean despite spite of what you said.

CQ CALL

There is little more frustrating or downright maddening than the guy who sends a string of 27 CQs followed by his call (which he invariably makes a bog-up of). A single 3x3 string is adequate, being repeated if no reply. The very maximum you should seek to send is 3(3x3). I found that I got just as much joy from a 1x3 (CQ DE (GX3ZQS x 3) as I ever got from a 3x3 because it is terminated with a 'K' rather than a 'KN' making it clear to even those who only caught the end call that it was general.

QRL?

Before you call on a seemingly clear frequency or have been silent on your original frequency for any length of time, always check with QRL? Listen carefully, QRL? Again and if there is no response then assume it is unoccupied. By the same rule, if you hear QRL? Whilst listening to your contact, then say something or you may well end up with QRM. The fact that someone has had the courtesy to ask if the frequency is clear demands at least the return courtesy of a reply. A simple 'YES TNKS' should suffice but a curt QSY will probably result in an extended blast of QRM whilst the station concerned tells you exactly what he thinks about your manners.

If you respond to a CQ call, remember that the station you answered has priority and if someone else on closing calls you, organise a QSY. Continuing with the station that called you is tantamount to stealing the frequency and is just plain bad manners.

Do not send beyond the limitations of your own receiving speed. Chances are that you will be sending badly without being aware of it and in any case, you will be struggling if your contact answers at the same speed.

Adopt the speed of the other station unless QRQ is invited. Sending faster than the other guy is both bad mannered and futile since he may well be unable to read what you are sending.

Q-CODES

The accepted Q-Codes have been much mangled by the Amateur Service and rarely take on their original meaning. However, here are a few in general use with the original meaning in parentheses.

| | |
|-------------|--|
| QMF | (Please net on my frequency) |
| QOF | Pure invention. Please use the other foot |
| QRA? | (What is your name or, more correctly at sea, what is the name of your vessel)? |
| QRK etc. | (Readability) in amateur use it becomes value thus: QRK 1/2/3/4/5 |
| QRL | (I am busy) but with amateurs it is not necessarily radio oriented: QRL with garden. |
| QRO | (High power) |
| QRP | (Low power) |
| QRQ | (You may send faster) |
| QRS | (Please send slower) <i>and don't be afraid of using this one.</i> |
| QRT | (I am closing down) |
| QRU | (No more traffic) |
| QRV | (I am ready to receive) Used by amateurs as an indication of status i.e. QRV 30M (I am able work on 10.1 MHz. |
| QRX | (Please stand by) |
| QRZ | (You are being called by [stn]) or QRZ? (Who is calling me?) |
| QSP | (Please pass free of charge) |
| QTR | Time. My watch has fallen into the tea (What is the date/time group on this message) |

INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

FISTS Logo

FISTS members are allowed to use the Logo's on their QSL Cards, Emails Letterheads etc.

Joint Membership

Spouses of members who are also licensed hams can be admitted to full membership at no extra charge. However only one Keynote will be sent.

QSL Bureau

We maintain a bureau for members wishing to send cards to other FISTS members. Incoming cards from FISTS members will be forwarded to you. This service is done at no extra cost to members OTHER THAN SSAE's TO YOUR QSL MANAGER.

Contact M0AVW m0avw1@ntlworld.com for your QSL Managers Address.

M0AVW

Mr.C.Spence

32,Woodford Walk

Harewood Park

Thornaby-on-Tees

TS17 0LT

England

FISTS Internet Sites

Our Internet site is at www.fists.co.uk The North American chapter maintains a comprehensive web site that is well worth a visit at www.fists.org Also www.fistsdownunder.org (ZL/VK members) and www.feacw.net for Members in: Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Uzbekistan are well worth a visit. If you want to enter the challenges we hold within FISTS. Visit www.m0bpt.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk (Unofficial site) For previous and current editions of "Brasspounder" The challenge newsletter.

Also, consider joining the FISTS Reflector.

Here you'll find a number of items of interest, Members photo's (Add yours), Members keys (Add yours), Challenge rules. Points of view etc.

Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fistscw/>

RULES FOR AWARDS FOR FISTS UK/EU MEMBERS

Basic Century Award

The Century Award is earned by working 100 points of FISTS members.

FISTS operating in your own Country = **1Point** (DXCC Rules apply)

FISTS operating outside of your own Country = **2Points**.

FISTS affiliated club stations = **3 points**.

FISTS national club calls GB2SCW, GX0IPX, GX3ZQS, MX5IPX, JL3MYV, KN0WCW, VK2FDU & ZL6FF = **5 points**.

FISTS awards log sheets are available to download from the files section of

FISTS UK reflector site <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fistscw/files/> Either in Adobe (.pdf) or MS Word (.doc) formats

Please note the Awards E-Mail applications address m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk
By land mail to;

Mr R.Walker
125, Devereux Road,
West Bromwich,
West Midlands.
B70 6RQ
England.

(Please note the rules for the G3ZQS Challenge differ)

GUIDELINES

For E-Mail Log Applications:

1. Only files accepted are MS Word or Excel
2. NO formatting in your log files such as; Borders, Colour text, Tables, Special Fonts etc.
3. ONE log submitted for each award with ALL contacts shown for that award.
4. NO Scanned log sheets will be accepted, that means no scanned images pasted into Word or Excel documents will be accepted either.
5. All QSO's listed in a single column. NO multiple columns in Word.
6. A SINGLE TAB between data fields of a QSO. No spaces. Example: CALL (TAB) DATE (TAB) BAND (TAB) FISTS#(TAB) POINTS.
Place ONLY one TAB character for each "(TAB)" in the example above. I do not care if the data lines up in nice little columns, just ONE TAB ONLY please.
7. Only data needed in logs is as follows:
Century Series Awards - Call, Date, Band, FISTS #, Points.
Platinum Series Awards - Call, Date, Band, CC number (NO Points needed for these awards.)
8. Include your Name. Call, FISTS # and address with each log and INDICATE the Award you are applying for.
9. Dupe Check Sheet NOT required for logs sent via e-mail.
10. Dupe check your log BEFORE sending it to me. Logs with excessive Dupes will be returned and not processed for your award.
Stamps are appreciated to help with award mail. (Note the awards are FREE)

For Paper Logs:-

1. A Dupe Check Sheet is required for ALL logs submitted with over 100 contacts listed. ONLY FISTS numbers are to be used on the Dupe Check Sheet NOT Call Signs. FISTS numbers are used so to eliminate number Dupes when call signs are changed.
2. Send ONLY a copy of your award log, NOT your Original Log. (Some original logs have been lost in the mail)
3. One log for each award applied for with ALL contacts needed for that award.
4. DO NOT send a copy of your entire log with FISTS contacts highlighted. Send ONLY the data needed for the award log.
- 5 Stamps are appreciated to help with award mail. (Note the awards are FREE)
6. Please include a note if you want your log returned to you. I DO NOT keep paper logs nor will I return them to you unless you ask me to do so. Stamps are appreciated to help with award mail.
7. Only data needed in logs is as follows:-
Century Series Awards - Call, Date, Band, FISTS #, Points.
Platinum Series Awards - Call, Date, Band, CC number. (No points needed for these awards).
8. Include your Name, Call, FISTS # and Address with each log and Indicate the Award you are applying for.
9. Dupe check your log BEFORE sending it to me. That's the purpose of the Dupe Check Sheet. Logs with excessive Dupes will be returned and not processed for your award.

Following these Guidelines will help me to give you faster service and a quick turn around time for your award certificates.

A FISTS member can only be counted once.

You don't have to be a FISTS member at the time of the contact, but the person you are claiming for Century Award points must be a FISTS member AT THE TIME OF THE CONTACT. For example, if you QSO with someone who is not a FISTS member, but if they join FISTS after the QSO; you must work them again for the point(s). You cannot count the QSO before they joined FISTS, toward the Century Award. Once completed, your log should be verified as having been checked by another licensed Radio Amateur.

| <u>Other Classes of Awards</u> | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <u>The Silver Century Award</u> | has the same rules as the Basic Century and is for a total of 250 points. Points used to claim the Basic Century may be used toward the Silver Century Award. |
| <u>The Golden Century Award</u> | has the same rules as the Basic Century, but it is for a total of 500 points. Points used to claim the earlier Century Awards may be used toward the Golden Century Award. |
| <u>The Diamond Century Award</u> | has the same rules as the Basic Century, but it is for a total of 1000 points. Points used to claim the earlier Century Awards may be used toward the Diamond Century. |
| <u>QRP Awards.</u> | The Century Awards are available in QRP and 2-way QRP, QRP meaning 5 watts or less output. Please give your power used when applying for the QRP version of the Award. |
| <u>The Platinum Award</u> | is earned by working 100 different Century Certificate holders. The Century Certificate (CC) number must be obtained during an on-air QSO. Each CC number is only counted once, for a total of 100 numbers, regardless of location or band. |
| <u>The 250 Platinum Award</u> | The 250 Platinum Award is for 250 century award holder contacts. |
| <u>The 500 Century Award</u> | <u>The 500 Century Award</u> is for 500 Century Award holder Contacts. |

BRASSPOUNDER

For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge.

Welcome.

Here we are again, and, as the end of 2007 appears on the horizon. We always ask ourselves "Where has the time gone?" From a personal point of view, it's been a hectic but very rewarding year for me. The activities provided within FISTS seem to be gaining in popularity within the

Membership. Nice to see more new calls appearing in the tables. More members seem to be active on air when we do have an activity ongoing. Lets hope that 2008 sees even more of you join in and submit a log.

Now, I'd like to clear up a matter that has surfaced since the last edition of Key-note was published. I must make a point to you all regarding the FISTS 20th anniversary challenge, which will be active during December. There has been (Justified) concern from a member regarding the use of the WARC bands during this activity. I had considered removing the WARC allocation from the activity. But, I have decided to allow their use.

BUT ONLY IF THESE GUIDELINES ARE FOLLOWED.

DO NOT CALL "CQ FISTS" ON THE FREQUENCIES THAT WE NORMALLY MAY BE FOUND ON! (OR ANYWHERE ELSE ON THE WARC's) A GENERAL CQ MUST BE USED AND ALL REPLIES MUST BE ANSWERED WHETHER THEY ARE FISTS MEMBERS OR NOT! ALL EXCHANGES OF FISTS NUMBERS ETC. ON THE WARCS MUST BE INCIDENTAL TO THE QSO. HAVE GENERAL CHAT, NO NUMBER EXCHANGING AND RUNNING!

I'm aware that this seems obvious to those who use the bands on a regular basis. But there is a genuine concern from our colleague that there could be a possibility of rudeness and ignorance by members to other amateurs who are not members of FISTS. Also, we do not want to be known as the society who started using the WARC's for "Contests" etc. This has never been part of my thinking! As many of you may be aware, I've always advocated the use of the WARC frequencies. They are a much underused and misunderstood allocation to the amateur service. And a haven from the "EU (And further afield) Zoo" That erupts on the harmonically related

frequencies. In retrospect, perhaps I should have made myself clearer to the masses. But now I hope everyone will be clear of what's expected when using the WARC frequencies if they decide to join the activity.

Straight Key Week (SKW) 2007 was active between the 2nd and the 8th of September. Lets take a look at the results and reports from participants.

Before I get on with the long awaited results of SKW 2007. I'd like to say a big "THANK YOU" To all who supported the activity. Not only the members who took an active part in the week and sent in an entry, but also to those from the membership who were on air actively supporting the activity! I noticed by the amount of "FISTS Nr xxx" in the logs submitted to me that it certainly was an active SKW. Lots more members on air! Also, it was a real pleasure to see the amount of recently joined members of the society in the logs. This too, of course is reflected in the scores. Which are considerably higher than last year. I hope that next year we can improve on the 2007 SKW with even more of the membership blowing the dust off their straight keys and joining in the fun. Making SKW 2008 an exciting prospect to all members of the society. To everyone who did join in, send in your log in 2008! Don't think, "I didn't do well enough" When you see the results published in here a little later, I hope you'll think, "I did better than that" Once again. Thanks to all for making SKW 2007 a success. (Even though condx were lousy Hi)

Lets take a look at band reports and general comments from those who were chasing the numbers during the week.

Firstly. Peter. G3JFS #8985.

Hi Robert, Attached is my log for the Fists SKW. Conditions were, if anything, worse than last year and although I have a better log this time it is due to more activity by members and having more time to spare for operating. 10 and 15m were completely dead except for 15m on Day 7 after 3B7C started up. Then there was bedlam for a short period before the band faded out. Altogether I had 259 contacts with 46 countries in 6 continents. Best dx on 40m was W. Australia and Indonesia with Guyana, Kuwait, Senegal and Uruguay on 20m. Several Fists members from across the pond were worked on 20/40m but these were difficult contacts because of extremely poor transatlantic propagation. I know I missed a few calls from the US that I could not copy because of high noise and deep, deep

QSB. The high level of activity by members was welcomed and I hope this is reflected in the number of logs you get. From a rough count I had 114 Fists contacts with 64 different members. As always 80m was the best band for member contacts but I do wish stations would spread out in busy periods instead of all trying to work on or close to the calling channel when several kHz either side are clear. The relaxed operating style of SKW and similar events does allow lots of interesting contacts to be made and two that I would mention are firstly with Tony, GØPEH #1651 who was running 2 watts from a home-made paraset. The other on Day 7 was with Colin, M3WCK #13231 to give him his very first Fists contact with his new membership number obtained the previous day at the Leicester rally.

73 Peter G3JFS ex GM3JFS, VK6AI, 5Z4PQ and DA1PE.

Thanks Peter for a very interesting account of your week's activity. Certainly, Tony. GØPEH with his Paraset at two watts worthy of a mention, and what a pleasure to hear that Colin. M3WCK was airing his Membership number just 24 hours or less after receiving it from the Leicester Rally, and you being his first FISTS Contact. I will add that Peter does make a very valid point about congestion around the recommended frequencies. I tend to move down a little and give out general "CQ's" And hope other members do the same.

From "Jakey" G3JKY #6462.

"Sorry I couldn't spend more time on air. On the 1st I was recovering from SSB FD. And on the 6th I was in the RAFARS Contest! And on the evening of the 7th I was playing trombone in a jazz band at Crowborough! 73. "Jakey"

Good to hear from you Jakey. You had a busy week! Thanks for finding time to get on air!

From Len. G3LHS #13214.

Hello Robert. I started late due to lack of time but it was a chance to meet members, G4LHI, G3HAL, G3VRU and G3JFS after I'd "Blown the dust off the straight keys" A WT8 Amp with G4LHI & G3HAL. And a GPO 2101 with G3VRU & G3JFS. All contacts were made with 5W from my Alinco DX70.

Good to hear from you Len. And nice to hear that you've blown the dust off the straight keys! It's always nice to hear that members fetch their keys out of retirement for the event.

From Mike. G4NCU #6061.

Herewith my log for the skw, unfortunately I could not make the last day, but had great fun meeting old friends and some new. It was good to use my old TS520 with an old army key for the 48 set. 73 Mike G4NCU.

Always a pleasure to hear from you Mike. There's something both yourself and Peter G3JFS (And others) have commented on which I'll pick up on later.

From Tony. G3ZRJ #7727.

Hi Rob,

Please accept my log for SKW 2007, this is my first "go" at an entry for SKW, I have tried to ensure all info is as you requested in Brasspounder.

My station during SKW was Kenwood TS-850 set to 80W except if operating in/near QRP freqs when I went to between 5 and 10 Watts, antenna is a half-wave on 80M with about 45 feet of 600 ohm open wire feeder via coax choke into coax, the internal ATU tunes this on all 9 HF bands.

I used my copy of a GPO coast station key for all QSO's in SKW; it was good to shake off some of the rust off my hand-keying fist.

I very much enjoyed SKW; I had some great chats with some terrific ops, thanks very much for a very enjoyable week. I did the AGCW Straight Key Party on 1st Sept so I was pounding brass for 8 days in all. Thanks again for organising SKW it really was fun,

73 Tony G3ZRJ FISTS 7727 FOC 1774 RNARS 889.

Welcome Tony. I'm very pleased you've enjoyed your 1st SKW. Lets hope we'll see you in 2008.

Tony kindly sent in some images of his keys and an image of himself at the operating position at G3ZRJ.



Hi Robert, as promised, a photo of me with the station used in SKW, the key is a copy of the GPO coast station keys. The other keys in use are a rather battered J36 bug and a twin paddle made by David VK3DBD/G3SCD, which I use via a Logikey K-1.

From Peter. G4LHI #2219.

Hello Robert, I attach my claim for the SK Week. Really enjoyed this year, seemed a lot more activity than last year & I even managed to find Stan, K4UK, on 7 MHz just before closing time after a few failed calls during the week, many thanks Stan. Many thanks also to Roy with a few of his Scarborough Club Call signs & 3 pointers. Thanks also to all members that joined in the fun of the week & some that we worked on each day of the week. 73, Peter. G4LHI.

Always a pleasure to hear from you Peter. Glad to hear that you've enjoyed SKW this year.

From Derek. MØDRK #8344

Hi Robert, Please find attached my log for SKW 2007. Though I only popped up now and again; it was a most enjoyable week. None of the QSO's were "Rubber stamp variety" Eric, G3VRU was always ready for a nice chat. On both QSO's we had, one was 48 min's long and the other 44 min's. I did meet a couple of new (to me) members as well. Many thanks to all who gave me points. Sorry we missed you all at Donnington. 73 for now, Derek MØDRK

Good to hear from you also Derek. Pleasing to hear that people still have time to have a good chat.

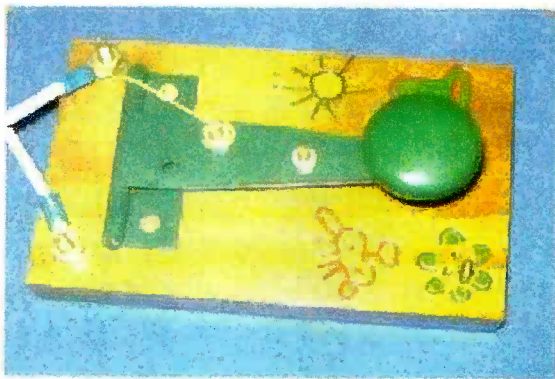
From Stan. K4UK #2934.

Rob - MOBPT:

Enclosed my log for the SKW. Also the picture of the NP4FW straight key. As you can see he used a hinge and mounted it on a very nice piece of wood and painted on some Indian symbols. I even used the straight key for a few contacts on the 30 Meters during the week. Was pleased to work Alf, G3UAA - Peter, G3JFS - Tony, G3ZRJ - Peter, G4LHI during the SKW. Even worked Tony on two bands. I had to call it quits after my QSO with G4LHI. I ended up with a total of 66 QSO's and 126 points during the SKW. It was fun and I did have some quite surprising QSO's including one with Alan VK6BN in Perth on 7.028 MHz on the 5th. Breakdown by bands: 11 on 80 Meters, 38 on 40 Meters and 17 on 20 Meters. I ran the K2 at 15 Watts for all contacts except the last four when I fired up my Ten-Tec OMNI 6 at 90 Watts to see if I could put a stronger signal over the big pond. Was a lot of fun using that home-built straight key. I'm making QSL cards with a picture of that key on them for all contacts I had. Got an Email from Tony, G3ZRJ and he really enjoyed the event. Really surprising to find so many FISTS members on 80 and 40 Meters. I've been spending most of my time on the WARC bands over the past couple of years that I didn't know of the activity on the other bands. - Hi! Also quite a few members of SKCC (Straight Key Century Club) are on the air. I'm member # 1941.

Thanks for all you do promoting FISTS and amateur radio.

73, Stan - K4UK



Here's an image of the NP4FW homebrew Straight Key used by K4UK during SKW. I'm going to suggest that this was possibly the only Homebrew key in use this year. (Unless of course, you know differently?) The second image is of K4UK at his operating position, which comes from a library picture that I have.

Thanks for your kind words (It's a team effort) Report and information Stan. As ever, a pleasure to have you on board for the 1st time in our SKW. I hope you'll make it a regular entry. It was nice to hear, considering the band condx, that all but four QSO's were achieved at 15w.

(As a matter of interest, lets find out what the most unusual thing that YOU have used as a Key. Can be past or present. Share your story with us, if you've got an image, even better! I know we have ex military, merchant marine, and coastguard op's etc. amongst us. So lets hope someone will have a story to share! I can be reached via the usual channels. Hope to hear from you!)

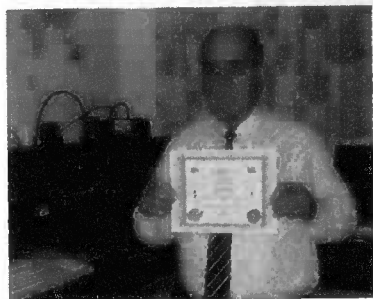
Just one more thing to do. That's publish the 2007 SKW results... But before I do, I want to pick up on comments made by G3JFS and G4NCU (And others) in their reports on SKW. G3JFS commented on the "Relaxed operating style of SKW" G4NCU remarked "Great fun meeting old friends and new" G3ZRJ and K4UK remarked "Very enjoyable week" and "It was fun" MØDRK commented that it was a "Most enjoyable week" These comments tell me that SKW 2007 has been a success. With more members of the society active during the week than there has been for some time. Hope you'll all put the 2008 dates in your diaries, and of course, blow the dust of the pump keys that you all have hiding away in the darkest corners of your shacks! OK. Here are the results at long last.

| | | |
|----|---------|--------------------|
| 1* | G3JFS | 377 |
| 2* | G4LHI | 290 |
| 3* | G3ZRJ | 192 |
| 4 | K4UK | 126 |
| 5 | G4NCU | 114 |
| 6 | G0MRH | 63 |
| 7 | G3HAL | 61 |
| 8 | M0DRK | 60 |
| 9 | G3HEL | 46 |
| 10 | G3JKY | 44 |
| 11 | OH7QR | 41 |
| 12 | G8XGQ | 26 |
| 13 | G3LHS | 8 |
| * | Denotes | Certificate Winner |

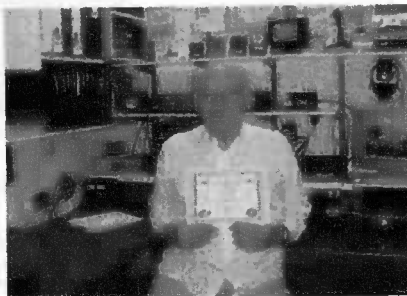
Congratulations go to Peter G3JFS for winning the 2007 SKW. Putting Peter G4LHI into second place. 2006 SKW saw G4LHI in first place and G3JFS in second place, so this year shows a change of place for the two.

Congratulations go to Peter G4LHI also for his fine second place score. And a special "Well Done" Must go to Tony G3ZRJ for getting on the winners podium with his first attempt and his excellent third place score. Certificates to the top three. That's about it for SKW 2007. Again, many thanks to all who supported the activity. Till the next time, keep well, keep bashing the brass!

A Mention and thanks must go to Pol, G3HAL #8367 who supplied a check log for me for the whole weeks activity and entered a log for five days of the activity. **Here are some images of the award winners of SKW 07**



1st Peter G3JFS



2nd Peter G4LHI



3rd Tony G3ZRJ

G3JFS informed me that his trusty 1947 Raymart Speed key is still doing him proud and been used to make 700+ QSO's since SKW 06. He commented "Your question on unusual keys; one I thought about many years ago was to use a sewing thimble on the index finger as the moving contact that could be 'tapped' on the chassis. Definitely NOT recommended for valve rigs, which usually have high voltages on the keying line. For these I suggest a small magnet and reed relay as used in alarm systems - just superglue the bar magnet to a thimble. In the distant past I have had contacts by tapping two bare wires together" Interesting thoughts Peter. I like the thought of the thimble on the chassis of the valve radio...Ok folks...lets see if anyone else has thought about Peter's idea, and, will anyone own up to trying out the idea? The ladder and WARC Challenge have been going along quite nicely. Condx have been a factor, which is reflected in the scores. It never ceases to amaze me how participants manage to wheedle out the contacts that they do. From a personal point of view. I believe that I've evolved into a "Lazy DX'er". If it lands on my doorstep then I'll take it! It's always nice to get an exotic/unusual call in the log. But I won't join the shouting match that erupts on the band. Before I get on to the ladder and WARC Tables. I want to make you aware of the activity calendar for 2008, which will be published in this edition. Things remain virtually unchanged for 2008. Except...It's FISTS 21st year!

I've decided to mark the occasion by holding a 21st Year "Coming of Age" Activity. The full guidelines are to be found in this edition, It's not far removed from the 20-20 Activity that'll be running during December.

The notable thing about this activity is the fact that I'm offering separate awards for each chapter of FISTS. i.e. FISTS EU will have their own awards, as will FISTS NA, FISTS DU and FISTS EA. By doing this I'm expecting that members of FISTS Worldwide will be active on air during 2008 meeting up on air and lets hope new friendships will be forged during the activity! It is operational for six months of the year. The society only reaches 21 just once. So the activity is going to be unique in that respect!

Note the power levels! Which will create a balanced event for all!

That's enough chat from me for this edition, lets take a look at the ladder and WARC tables for this year so far.

| LADDER | TOTALS 2007 | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|--------|
| CALL | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG | SEP | TOTALS |
| G4LHI | 33 | 40 | 47 | 39 | 33 | 34 | 33 | 30 | 34 | 323 |
| M5ABN | 35 | 46 | 44 | 43 | 28 | 21 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 247 |
| IK2RMZ | 4 | 11 | 20 | 19 | 16 | 24 | 32 | 13 | 21 | 160 |
| OH7QR | 14 | 4 | 16 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 14 | 14 | 93 |
| 2E0TEK | 8 | 0 | 14 | 24 | 12 | 21 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 89 |
| G6GUN | 26 | 30 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 88 |
| GM4WZL | 0 | 0 | 21 | 35 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72 |
| M0DRK | 13 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 68 |
| M0JRQ | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 24 | 45 |
| G0MRH | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 21 | 27 |
| 2E0AYQ | 9 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| G8XGQ | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 18 |
| PA1SOP | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| PA3AFF | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 |

G4LHI Still maintains his lead in the ladder activity with just three months to go. The ladder is operational on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month between the hours of 1400-1600 and 1800-2000 UTC. Come on and meet other members. Full guidelines can be found by accessing the "Contest Rules 2007" link on the FISTS UK website. www.fists.co.uk.

On to the WARC Challenge table.

WARC Totals 2007

| CALL | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUNE | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | MULT MAS- TER | PWR |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------|-------|
| G4LHI | 149 | 131 | 119 | 187 | 124 | 137 | 68 | 68 | 75 | 68 | 71944 | QRO |
| F2YT | 431 | 575 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 70 | 70420 | QRO |
| K4UK | 55 | 99 | 30 | 97 | 49 | 34 | 56 | 41 | 58 | 93 | 48267 | QRP |
| IK2RMZ | 106 | 73 | 91 | 147 | 148 | 108 | 35 | 99 | 54 | 45 | 38745 | QRO |
| OH7QR | 59 | 68 | 115 | 30 | 30 | 35 | 28 | 27 | 46 | 30 | 13140 | QRO |
| W4YE | 26 | 28 | 14 | 42 | 18 | 54 | 62 | 52 | 29 | 40 | 13000 | QRO |
| DL1GBZ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 57 | 22 | 66 | 70 | 20 | 17 | 4777 | QRO |
| W4FCR© | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 18 | 83 | 9 | 0 | 13 | 32 | 4032 | QRO |
| K4ORD | 4 | 20 | 21 | 16 | 6 | 21 | 15 | 4 | 0 | 21 | 2247 | QRP |
| KA3NZR | 5 | 24 | 7 | 27 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 35 | 22 | 2574 | MIXED |
| SM0PMJ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 63 | 0 | 60 | 53 | 12 | 2472 | QRO |
| 2E0TEK | 16 | 0 | 23 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 275 | QRO |
| G8XGQ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 8 | QRO |
| PA3AFF | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | QRO |

I've decided to run the WARC Challenge for another year. So it will be operational during 2008. Lets hope the bands will improve during the coming year for all the events planned.

Before I show the activity calendar for 2008 (Don't forget the 20-20 Activity running during December, Guidelines in the previous Keynote)

It's time for me to say "Many thanks" to all who've supported the events within the Society over the past year. I'm hoping to meet many of you over the coming months on air or even at one of the Amateur Rallies that FISTS attends.

Finally, some news, which, we hope you'll all find welcome.

The FISTS EU Management team have decided to re-introduce the

"FIST OF THE YEAR AWARD"

This award will be given to a society member who you, the membership decide has done the most for CW and the society during the year. A voting form will be included in the last Keynote of the year, for the membership to cast their vote.

The result will be announced in the 1st Keynote of the New Year. This is an award by you, the membership to a society member, recognising his or her

efforts during the year"

FISTS Worldwide 21st ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITY.

| | |
|---|--|
| <u>DATES</u> <u>TIMES</u> <u>BANDS</u> <u>POWER</u> <u>OUTPUTS</u> | The months of: February. April. June. August. October. & December 2008 All times UTC. 1.8MHz – 30MHz. Class "A" QRO Max TX Output 100w Class "B" QRP Max TX Output 5w (LOGS must show Class of entry) |
| <u>CALL</u> | "Q CQ FISTS " ON RECOMMENDED FISTS FREQUENCIES. +/- (160m) 1.818MHz-(80m) 3.558MHz-(40m) 7.028MHz-(20m) 14.058MHz-15m) 21.058MHz (10m) 28.058MHz (Observing your Countries Band plan) NO WARC! (All frequencies +/- If working QRO be aware of the recognised QRP frequencies!) |
| <u>EXCHANGE</u> | DATE-CALL-NAME-QTH-FISTS NR. |
| <u>GENERAL</u> | Only Fists members will count for points in the activity. A member can only be claimed ONCE on each band. 1 point for each member worked. (National club calls=5points. Member clubs=3points) When you've worked 21 DIFFERENT members on a particular band you can double the points. (21 points becomes 42 points) (If you decide to remain on that particular band, you must work another 21 DIFFERENT members before gaining double points again. Or move on to another band) At the end of the activity, you may count each band that you've worked 21 or more members as a multiplier. Example. M9XYZ works 30 members on 160m=51points. 21 members on 80m=42points. 21 members on 40m=42points. 17 members on 20m=17points. Total points=152 x 3=456points. |
| <u>LOGS</u> | To include: DATE-CALL-BAND-QTH-FISTS NR-POINTS CLAIMED. Logs to submitted after the active sessions by the 10 th of the following months. (IE After February session, log to reach me by the 10 th March & so forth.) Ongoing results published on my Web-site www.m0bpt.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk and in Keynote throughout the year. |
| <u>FORMATS ACCEPTED</u> | Excel. (Preferred) csv. MS Word. Notepad. WordPad. Etc. |
| <u>SEND TO</u> | Email: m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk Post: R.D.Walker 125, Devereux Road. West Bromwich. West Midlands. B70 6RQ. ENGLAND |
| <u>AWARDS</u> | Overall winner: (Most recorded points) Award with Call, Name, and Year. Etc. (Certificates for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd places will be available for each FISTS Chapter. i.e. FISTS EU Award, FISTS NA Award, FISTS DU Award. And FISTS EA Award) |

G3ZQS WARC BAND CHALLENGE

| | |
|----------|---|
| Dates | 00.01 1st January to 23.59 31st December. UTC |
| Bands | 30M, 17M & 12M |
| Scoring | 1 point non members, 2 points FISTS members, 3 points FISTS club Stations. |
| Exchange | FISTS nr, or NM, and IARU locator square, (Four character format) which can be used as a multiplier for the total number of contacts made during the year. |
| Example | #5576 (or) NM IARU Loc IO82. FOR THE LOCATOR SQUARE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A MULTIPLIER, A CLUB MEMBER MUST HAVE BEEN WORKED WITHIN THE SQUARE. i.e. G9XYZ scores 2,400 points and gains 12 different locator squares on a combination of all three WARC Bands. = 2,400 x 12 = 28,800. REPEAT STATIONS: CAN ONLY BE WORKED A MAXIMUM OF FOUR TIMES PER MONTH. |
| Awards | Outright winner: The "G3ZQS" Award with your call, year, etc, Engraved. 1st Runner up: certificate 2nd Runner up: Certificate. A certificate will also be awarded to the highest points scored by a QRP entrant. (Max 5w output at the transmitter) endorsed accordingly. Therefore all entrants must declare their power output. A certificate will also be awarded to the highest scoring "Receiving station" log. |
| Logs | To include; date/call/name/locator/qrg/rst/time/FISTS nr or nm/points scored |
| Example | MOBPT rob IO82 30m 579/599 11.48 #5576 or nm 2pts or 1pt |
| Send to: | Land mail: R.D.Walker 125, Devereux Road West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 6RQ England. or email Monthly returns by the 14th of the next month By email in excel/csv/tabbed word format if possible please. |
| General | The purpose of the challenge is to promote activity on the WARC Bands It is not a contest. CALL "CQ" on or around the following frequencies; 30m-10.118/10.128 MHz: 17m-18.085 MHz: 12m-24.918 MHz PLEASE NOTE, These activities are meant to be fun and friendly as well as competitive. Any contact not showing the required return information will be excluded from the total scores. |

LADDER 2008

| | |
|-------------|---|
| DATES | January 200 to December 2008.UTC To be run on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month. |
| Times | TWO, TWO HOUR SESSIONS OPERATING BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 1400-1600 AND 1800-2000. ALL TIMES UTC! NOTE: You can only submit ANY TWO of your two-hour sessions out of a possible four! |
| Frequencies | All licensed amateur bands except the WARC bands. |
| Scoring | 5 points FISTS club station, 3 points for a Fists affiliated Club Station, 2 points for a Fist member, 1 point for a non-member. A station can only count once on each Sunday. |
| Logs | DATE/CALL/NAME/QTH/QRG/RST/TIME/FIST No or NM/POINTS SCORED. |
| Dates | Jan 13th/27th - Feb10th /24th - March 9th/23th - April 13th/27th - May 11th/25th - June 8th/22nd – July 13th/27th Aug 10th/24th - Sept 14th/28th - Oct 12th/26th – Nov 9th/23th - Dec 14th/28th |
| General | PLEASE vacate or pass on the FIST calling frequency after 5 continuous QSO's or QSY off the calling frequency. PLEASE NOTE, These activities are meant to be fun and friendly as well as competitive. Any contact not showing the required return information will be excluded from the total scores. |
| Send to: | All entries can be received by post or E-mail to; R.D.Walker, 125, Devereux Road, West Bromwich.B70 6RQ. Email m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk All logs are to be received by the 5th of the next month |

MIXED KEY WEEK 2008

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Dates | 0001 UTC on 2nd March to 2359 UTC on 8th March 08. UTC |
| Frequency | All licensed amateur bands except the WARC bands. |
| Rules | A station can only be worked once on each band during the week. A multiplier of 2 points for every station Worked on 5 or more bands during the week, can be used against the total weekly score. |
| Scoring | 5 points for a FISTS club station, 3 points for a FISTS Affiliated Club Station, 2 points for a FIST Member. 1 point for a Non Member. |
| Logs | to include CALL/NAME/QTH/QRG/TIME/FIST No or NM/ POINTS. |
| General | PLEASE vacate or pass on the FIST calling frequency after 5 continuous QSO's or QSY off the calling frequency. TOTALS to show weekly score times the number of stations worked on 5 or more bands during the week. All returns are to be received by the 25th March 07. Any type of key or keyer may be used, but no keyboard sending or pre-programmed messages from computers or keyers allowed. PLEASE NOTE, These contests are meant to be fun and friendly as well as competitive. Any contact not showing the required return information will be excluded from the total scores. |
| Send To: | All entries can be received by post to: R.D.Walker, 125, Devereux Road, West Bromwich. B70 6RQ. Or email m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk in Excel/csv/tabbed word document format if possible please. |

EUCW QRS PARTY 2008

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| General | FISTS CW Club invites all radio amateurs to take part in the annual EUCW/FISTS QRS Party over five days, Monday-Friday, in April each year. This is not a contest . Just enjoy plenty of slow Morse activity for a period of five days. The dates selected are intended to avoid week-end contest activity. Work any station, including members of EUCW clubs (see below), but send only in QRS. Standard QSO's with non-participating stations can be included in logs. |
| Dates/ Times | Monday 28th April 2008, 0001 UTC, to Friday 2 nd May2008, 2359 UTC. |
| Mode | CW only |
| Power | A - More than 10w input or 5w output power B - QRP (10w input or 5w output, or less) C - Short wave listeners. |
| Call | CQ QRS. Stations may be worked once per day, per band. |
| Frequencies | Recommended areas of activity, +/- 10 kHz of the FISTS calling frequencies, including WARC bands (see below), but contacts can be made on any frequency. Non-QRP stations should avoid calling CQ on the popular QRP frequencies (see below). |
| Keys/ Speeds | Use any type of key or keyer. No keyboard sending or pre-programmed messages from computers or keyers, but pre-programmed CQ calls or CQ loops are permitted. Maximum speed 14 words per minute (70 cpm). The speed of a QSO should be at the speed of the slower station. |
| Contacts | Normal friendly QSO's, no special requirements. QSO's with any station count. Work any station in any country, including stations not taking part in the QRS Party but try to persuade them to work QRS. |
| Logs | Logs should show Date, Time, Call sign, Name, QTH and EUCW Club/Number (if appropriate) of the stations worked/heard, and may include up to three votes for "Most Readable Morse Heard" (one vote per station). |
| Feedback | This is not a contest, but logs and feedback will be welcomed in the following classes: A - More than 10w input or 5w output power B - QRP (10w input or 5w output, or less) C - Short wave listeners. |
| AWARDS | A) A certificate will be awarded to the three participants working/hearing the most stations in each class. B) Certificates of Merit will be awarded to the three operators receiving most votes for the "Most Readable Morse Heard", provided the operators nominated have also submitted a log. If the operators receiving the most votes have not submitted a log the certificates of merit will be awarded to the qualifying operators with the next highest number of votes. In the event of a tie in first, second or third places, multiple certificates will be awarded, marked "Shared Award". C) A "NEWCOMERS AWARD" Will be issued to a person who uses the QRS PARTY WEEK for their 1 st "On Air" QSO. This must be verified by an EUCW Member. |
| SEND LOGS TO: | FISTS/EUCW QRS Party Organizer: Surfacemail: Robert Walker MOBPT, 125,Devereux Road, West Bromwich, B70 6RQ. England. OR EMAIL To be received by surface mail or e-mail not later than 31st May 2008. |
| General Information | FISTS calling frequencies : Recommended area of activity +/- 10 kHz 2m 144.058 MHz 6m Use any authorized CW frequency 10m 28.058 MHz 12m 24.918 MHz 15m 21.058 MHz 17m 18.085 MHz 20m 14.058 MHz 30m 10.118/10.128 MHz 40m 7.028 MHz 80m 3.558 MHz 160m 1.808 MHz QRP CW Calling Frequencies to be avoided by non-QRP stations. 1843; 3560; 7030; 10116; 14060; 18096; 21060; 24906; 28060 kHz. |

STRAIGHT KEY WEEK 2008

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Date | 0001 UTC on 7th September to 2359 on 13th September 08. UTC |
| Frequency | All licensed amateur bands except the WARC bands. |
| Scoring | 5 points FISTS club stations, 3 points for a FISTS affiliated Club Station, 2 points for a FIST Member, 1 point for a Non Member. |
| Exchange | RST/NAME/QTH/FIST No or NM/DAY No. Sunday is Day 1 Monday is Day 2 and so on To Saturday as Day 7. All entrants must have used a straight Key for all their QSO's but the worked station does not have to use a straight key. |
| Logs | to include DATE/CALL/NAME/QTH/QRG/RST/TIME/FIST No or NM/DAY No/POINTS. All entries to be received by the 22nd September 08. |
| General | PLEASE vacate or pass on the FIST calling frequency after 5 continuous QSO's or QSY off the calling frequency. PLEASE NOTE, These contests are meant to be fun and friendly as well as competitive. Any contact not showing the required return information will be excluded from the total scores. |
| Send Logs To: | All entries can be received by post to; R.D.Walker, 125, Devereux Road, West Bromwich. B70 6RQ. or by EMAIL m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk in Excel/csv/tabbed word format if possible please |

A busy 2008 ahead, should you wish to involve yourself with all the events planned for the coming year. Bear in mind, these events are an agreeable place to be for members working towards awards within FISTS, meeting fellow members. And of course, a place where members of our society can form lasting friendships!

73, see you in 2008.

Robert. MØBPT.

Happy Christmas from us too.



| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| FEA Web Site | Primary: http://www.feacw.net/ | Secondary: http://www.fists-ea.org/ |
| FEA Calling Freq. (MHz) | 7.026/7.028, 10.118/10.138, 14.058, 18.085, 21.058, 24.918, 28.058/28.158 | |
| FEA CW Net Schedule | 40m: 2300GMT on Saturdays | 20m: 0800GMT on Sundays |

| Contacts | | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Role | Name | Callsign | FISTS# | E-Mail Address |
| Liaison | Jun | JL8MIL | 9117 | jl8mil at fists-ea.org |
| FEA Net Manager | Nao | JO3HPM | 15008 | jo3hpm at fists-ea.org |
| Membership Secretary | Jean | JL3SIK | 9836 | join-fea at fists-ea.org |
| Webmaster, QSL Manager, Newsletter Editor & E-Mail Distributor | Harry | JL3AMK | 15002 | webadmin at fists-ea.org |
| QSL Bureau: Akinori Harry SHIBATA, 4-34-10-203 Senriyama-Nishi, Suita City, OSAKA 565-0851 JAPAN | | | | |

From Editor**Harry, JL3AMK #15002**

The morsEAsia is back!

Former editor, Leo, JJ8KGZ #4843 is very busy on his buisness and his new morse popularizing activity, the RT-Portect -- I will introduce some new CW Nets after.

There are some articles written by Nao, JO3HPM #15008 on this issue. He is one of the most active FEA members. Thanks a lot, Nao. Any articles are welcome, so I'm waiting for your e-mail :-)

New Members

Welcome to the FEA!

#15035: Aki, JE0SZE - June 24
 #15036: Jun, JQ1BWT - July 19
 #15037: Yuki, JJ0NHW - August 23
 #15038: Hama, JE1BKC - August 31
 #15039: Aki, JP1BJB - September 11
 #15040: Nob, JA1AAA - October 1
 #15041: Drew, JF1HJX - October 6
 #15042: Hiramine, JH6PAN - November 2
 #15043: Abecyan, JO7ROD - December 7

CW Nets in Japan

from: <http://www.feacw.net/misc/nets.htm>

Some CW Nets were born in Japan as following list. Anyone can join the net.

Round Table 20

Starting from 1300GMT on Mondays and Thursdays, on 7026kHz +/- QRM, controlled by Leo, JJ8KGZ. CW speed is 20WPM.

Round Table 30

Starting from 1300GMT on Sundays, on 7026kHz +/- QRM. CW speed is 30WPM, faster than RT20.

JA0 QRS Net

Starting from 1230 or 1300GMT on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, on 7027.3kHz +/- QRM. No net controller but JA0's enjoy round table QSO. CW speed is between 10 to 15WPM.

From Members**First Ever Participant From NA Chapter
in the FEA Net**

Nao, JO3HPM, #15008

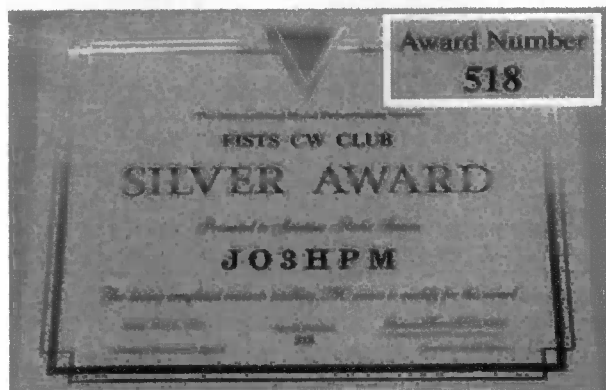
May 13 was a historic day for the FEA net. We had a participant from USA for the first time. When Allen N5XZ called me, I doubted my ear. Unfortunately, a regular participant, John VK4TJ could not copy him.

But John gave me a kind congratulation during the net. He said, "We should change our net name from the FISTS East Asia net to the World FISTS net. Hi." I have a dream that our four chapter's members will one day join in the net where they will not be judged by only the proficiency of their code skill but by the content of their character. Please join the net!

Silver Century Award #518

Nao, JO3HPM, #15008

I earned FISTS Silver Century Award on May 14 at last. I deeply appreciate 129 FISTS members who contacted with me. When I sent Dennis K6DF, FISTS Awards Manager, my log, he replied me next day. I also appreciated his quick job. Dennis requested me to let him know when I surely received my certification via airmail. I received my silver shining award certificate only 5 days after. I sent Dennis my message of receiving. But quick reply from him didn't come to me this time. After 6 days, Pam, XYL of Dennis, gave me an email and she explained that Dennis have a lower back injury and may need to have back surgery. I was very surprised. I hope his surgery will succeed and he will come back on the air soon.



The Place Where a Yagi-Uda Antenna Was Invented

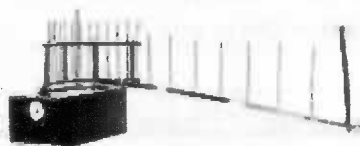
By Nao, JO3HPM, #15008

I went to Sendai, northern city of Japan, to attend a

workshop at Research Institute of Electrical Communication (RIEC), Tohoku University on November 21. When I arrived the campus, I was welcomed by big Yagi-Uda antennas of JA7YAA, Tohoku University Amateur Radio Club.

Professor Yagi is one of the founders to establish the RIEC. In 1924, a student found a strange phenomenon if a metallic element were located near the dipole antenna, the signal strength increased. Prof. Yagi felt something new and had Dr. Uda, teaching assistant, research it. The first paper of directive short-wave antenna was written by Dr. Uda in 1925.

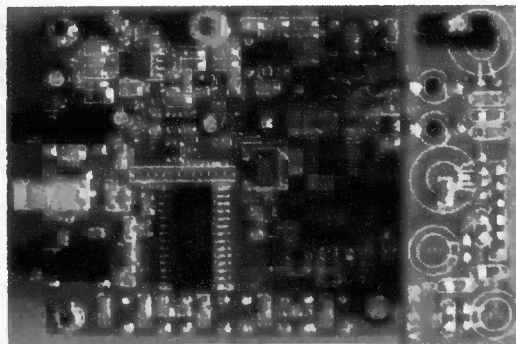
Next day of the workshop, I visited the Sendai City museum to see a 666 MHz transceiver equipped a Yagi-Uda antenna constructed by them in 1929. They successfully made 29-km communication using it. Now, we never live without seeing the antenna. Their research was selected as one of the 75 IEEE Milestones around the world.



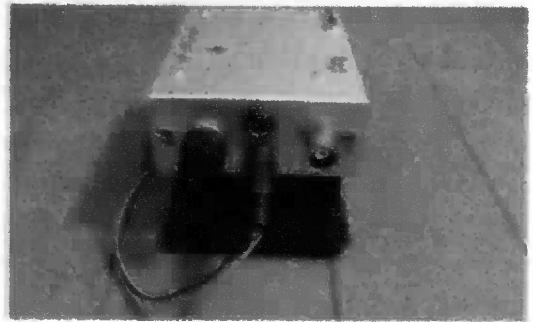
My New Equip., the ATS-3B

Harry, JL3AMK #15002

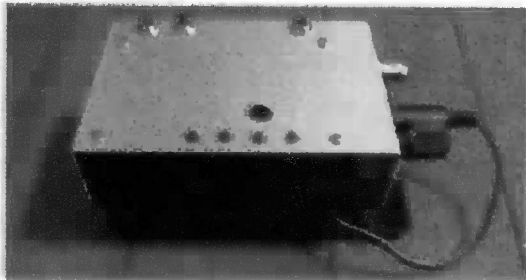
I bought the one of the 2nd run of the AT Sprint 3B in November. Unfortunately it is sold out for now, but the 3rd run will be available in early 2008.



It is small transceiver kit designed and sold by Steven, KD1JV. "The ATS series started out as a SMT project in an attempt to build a trail friendly rig into an Altoids tin.", he posted to the AT_Sprint reflector. It has a DDS VFO and can be on 80-meter through 15-meter by replacing the plug-in filter boards.



My ATS-3B can put out about 1 watt @ 6 volts, and 5 watts @ 12 volts. I set it into the enclosure, which is larger a little bit, and added some parts to operate comfortably.



I'm active as HF Pedestrian Mobile in the park. I'd like to have lots of QSO's with FISTS.

KD1JV Designs: <http://kd1jv.qrpradio.com/>

Reflector: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AT_Sprint/

QRP CW Challenging

Harry, JL3AMK #15002

Several ATS-3B were imported to Japan. One is mine, and another one is Hoz's. Hoz, JL1IRB #15030 and I are attempting have QRP QSO using ATS-3B and simple small antenna, like a telescopic whip.

Scheduled QSO's were had some times in December, on 40m, but we have not succeeded yet. We will try in January again.

FEA CW Net Results

| No. | Y/M/D | GMT | MHz | Controller | Participant |
|-------|------------|-----------|---------|--------------|--|
| 158-2 | 2007/12/30 | 0800-0840 | 14.0546 | JO3HPM(Nao) | VK4TJ(John), JE1RZR(Manabu) |
| 158-1 | 2007/12/29 | 2300-2400 | 7.0274 | JJ8KGZ(Leo) | JE1TRV(Atsu), JE1RZR(Manabu), JO3HPM(Nao), JQ2SFZ(Isao) |
| 157-2 | 2007/12/23 | 0800-0900 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | VK4TJ(John), 9V1VV(John) |
| 157-1 | 2007/12/22 | 2300-2354 | 7.026 | JE7YTQ(Sugi) | JE1TRV(Atsu), JE1RZR(Manabu), JO3HPM(Nao) |
| 156-2 | 2007/12/16 | 0800-0825 | 14.0545 | JO3HPM(Nao) | 9V1VV(John) |
| 156-1 | 2007/12/15 | 2210-2320 | 7.026 | JO3HPM(Nao) | JJ8KGZ(Leo), JE1TRV(Atsu) |
| 155-2 | 2007/12/9 | 0800-0840 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | 9V1VV(John), JE1TRV(Atsu), JE1RZR(Manabu) |
| 155-1 | 2007/12/8 | 2300-2345 | 7.026 | JJ8KGZ(Leo) | JR0QWW/0(Taro), JE1TRV(atsu), JG0SXC(Man), JK7UST(Sugi), JO3HPM(Nao), JL3YOC/1/QRP(Masa) |
| 154-2 | 2007/12/2 | 0800-0900 | 14.954 | JO3HPM(Nao) | VK4TJ(John), JE1TRV(Atsu) |
| 154-1 | 2007/12/1 | 2300-2350 | 7.026 | JE7YTQ(Sugi) | JE1TRV(Atsu), JJ8KGZ(Leo), JE1RZR(Manabu), JQ2SFZ(Isao), JG0SXC(Man) |
| 153-2 | 2007/11/25 | 0800-0900 | 18.085 | JO3HPM(Nao) | VK4TJ(John), JE1TRV(Atsu) |

| | | | | | |
|-------|------------|-----------|---------|-----------------|---|
| 153-1 | 2007/11/24 | 2230-2345 | 7.001 | JJ8KGZ(Leo) | JE1TRV(Atsu), JO3HPM(Nao), JG0SXC(Man), JL1IRB(Hoz) |
| 152-2 | 2007/11/18 | 0800-0900 | 14.0545 | JO3HPM(Nao) | VK4TJ(John), ZL1MK(Don), JK7UST(Sugi), JE1TRV(Atsu) |
| 152-1 | 2007/11/17 | 2315-0025 | 7.0265 | JE7YTQ(Sugi) | JO3HPM(Nao), JE1TRV(Atsu), 7K1CPT/1(Yama), JR0QWW/1(Taro), JE1RZR(Manabu), JL1IRB(Hoz), JQ2SFZ(Isao), JG0SXC/0(Man) |
| 151-2 | 2007/11/11 | 0800-0900 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | VK4TJ(John), 9V1VV(John) |
| 151-1 | 2007/11/10 | 2300-0010 | 7.026 | JJ8KGZ(Leo) | JR0QWW(Taro), JK7UST(Sugi), JO3HPM(Nao), JK1TCV(Kazu), JG0SXC(Man) |
| 150-2 | 2007/11/4 | 0800-0830 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | JK7UST(Sugi), JJ8KGZ(Leo) |
| 150-1 | 2007/11/3 | 2300-0000 | 7.026 | JE7YTQ(Sugi) | JE1RZR(Manabu), JO3HPM(Nao), JG0SXC(Man) |
| 149-2 | 2007/10/28 | 0800-0900 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | ZL2AOH(Ralph), VK4TJ(John), JE1RZR(Manabu) |
| 149-1 | 2007/10/27 | 2300-0006 | 7.026 | JE7YTQ(Sugi) | JO3HPM(Nao), JE1RZR(Manabu), JE1TRV(Atsu), JL1IRB(Hoz), JF3KNW(Nobu) |
| 148-2 | 2007/10/21 | 0800-0905 | 14.055 | JO3HPM(Nao) | VK4TJ(John), 9V1VV(John), JE1TRV(Atsu) |
| 148-1 | 2007/10/20 | 2300-2345 | 7.026 | JJ8KGZ(Leo) | JO3HPM(Nao), JE1TRV(Atsu), JE1RZR(Manabu), JR0QWW/4(Taro) |
| 147-2 | 2007/10/14 | 0800-0905 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | JJ8KGZ(Leo), JE1RZR(Manabu), VK4TJ(John), JQ2SFZ(Isao) |
| 147-1 | 2007/10/13 | 2300-0000 | 7.0265 | JE7YTQ(Sugi) | JJ8KGZ(Leo), JL1IRB(Hoz), JQ2SFZ(Isao), JE1RZR(Manabu) |
| 146-2 | 2007/10/7 | 0800-0855 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | 9V1VV(John) |
| 146-1 | 2007/10/6 | 2200-2300 | 7.026 | JJ8KGZ(Leo) | JE1RZR(Manabu), JO3HPM(Nao), JK7UST(Sugi), JE3UWU/7(Atsu) |
| 145-2 | 2007/9/30 | 0800-0840 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | JK7UST(Sugi), JE1TRV(Atsu) |
| 145-1 | 2007/9/29 | 2300-0013 | 7.026 | JE7YTQ(Sugi) | JE1RZR(Manabu), JR0QWW(Taro), JG0SXC(Man), JO3HPM(Nao), JL1IRB(Hoz), JE1TRV |
| 144-2 | 2007/9/23 | 0800-0835 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | JK7UST(Sugi), JE1RZR(Manabu) |
| 144-1 | 2007/9/22 | 2300-2350 | 7.0265 | JJ8KGZ(Leo) | JR0QWW/0(Taro), JE1RZR(Manabu), JO3HPM(Nao), JK7UST(Sugi), JG0SXC(Man) |
| 143-2 | 2007/9/16 | 0800-0905 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | JE1RZR(Manabu), JF3KNW(Nobu), 9V1VV(John) |
| 143-1 | 2007/9/15 | 2300-0010 | 7.026 | JE7YTQ(Sugi) | JR0QWW/0(Taro), JE1RZR(Manabu), JO3HPM(Nao), JQ2SFZ(Isao) |
| 142-2 | 2007/9/9 | 0800-0900 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | JG0SXC(Man), VK4TJ(John) |
| 142-1 | 2007/9/8 | 2300-0010 | 7.026 | JO3HPM(Nao) | JN1XLV(Rie), JL1IRB(Hoz), JQ2SFZ(Isao), JJ8KGZ/M(Leo) |
| 141-2 | 2007/9/2 | 0800-0900 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | 9V1VV(John), JR0QWW/0(Taro), JF3KNW(Nobu), VK4TJ(John) |
| 141-1 | 2007/9/1 | 2300-0005 | 7.026 | JJ8KGZ(Leo) | JE1RZR(Manabu), JO3HPM(Nao), JK7UST(Sugi) |
| 140-2 | 2007/8/26 | 0800-0905 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | VK4TJ(John), JE1RZR(Manabu) |
| 140-1 | 2007/8/25 | 0823-0841 | 7.026 | JL3YOC/1(Harry) | JR0QWW/1(Taro), JK7UST/1(Sugi), JL1IRB/1(Hoz), J12MED/1(Manabu) |
| 139-2 | 2007/8/19 | none | none | none | none |
| 139-1 | 2007/8/18 | 2300-0000 | 7.0265 | JJ8KGZ(Leo) | JL1IRB(Hoz), 7K1CPT/1(Yama) |
| 138-2 | 2007/8/12 | 0800-0855 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | JK7UST(Sugi), VR2DL(Tat), JE1RZR(Manabu) |

| | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------|--------------|---|
| 138-1 | 2007/8/11 | 2300-0000 | 7.026 | JE7YTQ(Sugi) | JO3HPM(Nao), JE1RZR(Manabu) |
| 137-2 | 2007/8/5 | 0800-0855 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | VK4TJ(John), JE1RZR(Manabu) |
| 137-1 | 2007/8/4 | 2300-2340 | 7.001 | JJ8KGZ(Leo) | JE1TRV(Atsu), JA1NUT(Shin) |
| 136-2 | 2007/7/29 | 0800-0850 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | VK4TJ(John), JE1RZR(Manabu), JL1IRB(Hoz) |
| 136-1 | 2007/7/28 | 2300-0000 | 7.026 | JE7YTQ(Sugi) | JL1IRB(Hoz), JG0SXC(Man), JO3HPM(Nao) |
| 135-2 | 2007/7/22 | 0800-0850 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | VK4TJ(John), JE1RZR(Manabu), JG0SXC(Man) |
| 135-1 | 2007/7/21 | 2300-? | 7.026 | JJ8KGZ(Leo) | JK7UST(Sugi), JL1IRB(Hoz), JE1RZR(Manabu) |
| 134-2 | 2007/7/15 | 0800-0855 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | VK4TJ(John) |
| 134-1 | 2007/7/14 | 2300-0005 | 7.026 | JE7YTQ(Sugi) | JE1TRV(Atsu), JJ8KGZ(Leo), JK1TCV(Kazu), JA1NUT(Shin), JQ2SFZ(Isao), JO3HPM(Nao), JL1IRB(Hoz) |
| 133-2 | 2007/7/8 | 0800-0845 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | VK4TJ(John) |
| 133-1 | 2007/7/7 | 2300-2340 | 7.026 & 21.058 | JJ8KGZ(Leo) | JK7UST(Sugi), JE1TRV(Atsu) |
| 132-2 | 2007/7/1 | 0800-0840 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | JE1TRV(Atsu), JK7UST(Sugi) |
| 132-1 | 2007/6/30 | 2303-0003 | 7.025 | JE7YTQ(Sugi) | JO3HPM(Nao) , JL1IRB(Hoz), JJ8KGZ(Leo), JQ2SFZ(Isao), JF3KNW(Nobu) |
| 131-2 | 2007/6/24 | 0800-0925 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | JE1RZR(Manabu), VK4TJ(John), 9V1VV(John), JK7UST(Sugi) |
| 131-1 | 2007/6/23 | 2300-0000 | 7.026 | JJ8KGZ(Leo) | JO3HPM(Nao), JE1TRV(Atsu), JQ2SFZ(Isao), JG0SXC(Man) |
| 130-2 | 2007/6/17 | 0800-0830 | 14.052 | JO3HPM(Nao) | none |
| 130-1 | 2007/6/16 | 2300-2354 | 7.026 | JE7YTQ(Sugi) | 7K1CPT(Yama), JO3HPM(Nao) |
| 129-2 | 2007/6/10 | 0800-0900 | 14.054 | JO3HPM(Nao) | VK4TJ(John) |
| 129-1 | 2007/6/9 | 2300-2346 | 7.026 | JJ8KGZ(Leo) | JK7UST(Sugi), JO3HPM(Nao), JL1IRB(Hoz), JG0SXC(Man), JQ2SFZ(Isao) |

Summary of the FISTS East Asia CW Net in 2007

Nao, JO3HPM, #15008

I would like to thank all the participants in the FISTS East Asia CW net. I appreciate Sugi, JK7UST, Leo, JJ8KGZ, John, VK4TJ and John, 9V1VV who took on the role of net controller, too. Now we have a 7 MHz net on Saturdays 23Z (Part 1) and a 14 MHz net on Sundays 08Z (Part 2). We could celebrate 3rd birthday on December 23rd 2006. Here are some statistics of the FEA net from January 1st 2006 to December 30th 2007.

| Title | 7 MHz net (Part 1) | 14 MHz net (Part 2) |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Total number of nets | 52 | 50 |
| Average participants per net (including controllers) | 5.4 | 3.1 |
| Number of actual participants (including controllers) | 17 | 18 |
| The day with most participants | May 26 and Nov. 17, 9 persons | Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Jun 24, Sep 2, Oct 14 and Nov 18, 5 persons |
| The day with most countries | JA only | Jan 14 (BV,JA,VK,ZL), |

| | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| | | Feb 11 (BV,JA,VK,ZL), Mar 11 (9V,BV,JA,VK) |
| Number of nets with no participants | 0 | 3 |
| The persons who participated most (excluding controllers) | JO3HPM, 41 times | VK4TJ, 37 times |

The following **are the 25** participants list excluding controllers. Manabu, JE1RZR was most active at both nets. I would like to **celebrate** his effort.

| Callign | Name | Number of Participants | | |
|---------------|--------|------------------------|-------|-------|
| | | Part1+Part2 | Part1 | Part2 |
| JE1RZR+J12MED | Manabu | 42 | 27 | 15 |
| JO3HPM | Nao | 41 | 41 | 0 |
| JE1TRV+JE3UWU | Atsu | 39 | 27 | 12 |
| VK4TJ | John | 37 | 0 | 37 |
| JG0SXC+JR0YRC | Man | 28 | 26 | 2 |
| -JK7UST | Sugi | 28 | 18 | 10 |
| JL1IRB | Hoz | 24 | 23 | 1 |
| JJ8KGZ | Leo | 16 | 14 | 2 |
| JR0QWW | Taro | 16 | 15 | 1 |
| JQ2SFZ | Isao | 14 | 13 | 1 |
| JF3KNW | Nobu | 12 | 9 | 3 |
| 9V1VV | John | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| 7K1CPT | Yama | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| JJ1IZW+JL3YOC | Masa | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| BX2AH | Chen | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| JA1NUT | Shin | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| ZL2AOH | Ralph | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| ZL2SWR | Stan | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| JK1TCV | Kazu | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| VR2DL | Tat | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| JL3SIK | Jean | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| JN1XLV | Rie | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| JQ6PAQ | Kota | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| N5XZ | Allen | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| ZL1MK | Don | 1 | 0 | 1 |

You can see detail of each person's activity on http://www.feacw.net/qrv/FEA_Net_Result.html. The new solar cycle 24 will start soon. I hope more participants will join the FEA net in 2008. We always welcome you, even if you are not an FEA member. See you at the FEA net!

FISTS CW CLUB

PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

Please note that YOUR RENEWAL DATE is SOMEWHERE on your mailing label, either in FISTS# year/month/day format or day/month/year format.

Save volunteer wear and tear - renew now, don't wait for a renewal postcard.

If your renewal date is incorrect, let WZ8C Nancy know so she can fix it.

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The ARCI-QRP group has again offered to share their block of rooms at the Fairborn Holiday Inn with FISTS members who need a place to stay while attending the Dayton Hamvention. For information contact Hank K8DD and the web site www.rooms.qrparci.org