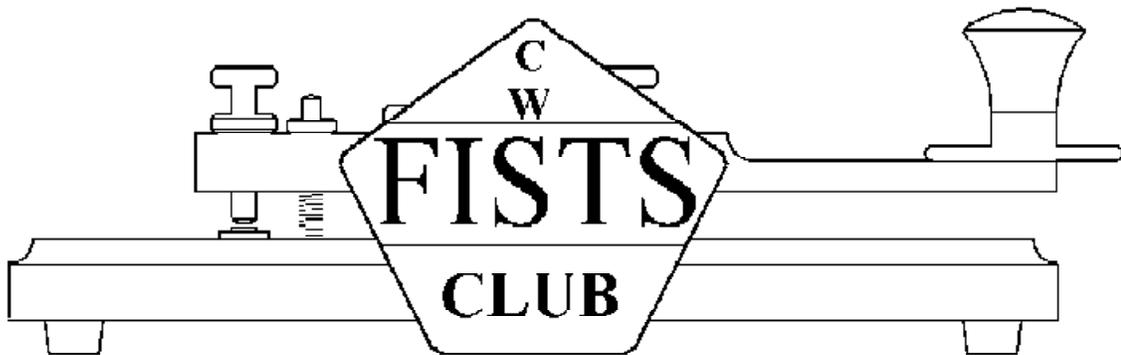


The Keynote

North American Memo
Newsletter of FISTS CW Club
The International Morse Preservation Society



Our Goals:

- ✘ Further the use of CW
- ✘ Encourage newcomers to use Morse code
- ✘ Engender friendships among members

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

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 or look in this reference issue.

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:

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

The QSL Bureau contact
Stan Reas, K4UK, k4uk@rev.net

Our club call KN0WCW contact
Karl Zuege, KB1DSB, HMC FMF_Karl@peoplepc.com

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 (no 's' on end of fist in email address)

Code Buddy volunteers and buddies contact
Nick Yokanovich, K3NY, & The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club,
w3hem@arrl.net

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

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

Ordering supplies: Irene Kott W08E
44609 North Bunker Hil Dr, Clinton Twp MI 48038 or paypal to fists@tir.com.
Irene has no email capability.

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

NANCY KOTT WZ8C PO Box 47 HADLEY MI 48440

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

Hello FISTS! We have just returned from a very successful Hamvention. There were plenty of helpers for the booth and hundreds of FISTS stopped by to say hello and about 50 new ones joined our "family". I don't have the final statistics yet, so will include Dayton photos and a write up in the next issue.

If you have any photos you'd like to share, email them to me at nancy@tir.com.

We'd also like to hear if you found any treasures in the flea market, or bought something special. Just jot it down, email it to me and I'll do the rest!

The email address in Issue 1 for John, AI4FR is incorrect. John is the volunteer who reads the Keynote onto a cassette tape for our blind members. If you want to get in touch with John, you can reach him at AI4FR@tampabay.rr.com.

Congrats to John Shannon, K3WWP on his 5000 QSO days streak. You can read all about it in his column in this issue on page 9. That's quite an accomplishment and an inspiration to all of us.

There is a mistake in the ARRL contest listings -- they listed our Spring SPRINT as being June 9, which of course, it isn't. The dates of the Sprints are:

The Winter SPRINT will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in February.

The Spring SPRINT will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in May.

The Summer SPRINT will run from 2000 EDT to 2400 EDT on Second Friday in July.

The Fall SPRINT will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in October.

Have you noticed an upsurge of interest in Morse code on television lately? The TV show Jerico uses it in its opening sequence (I haven't seen it, but was told about it).

And did you see the Lost episode with code, where they actually used REAL code - not gibberish dots and dashes?

Puma tennis shoes is running a promotion where one of the clues is in code.

Mike, K8XF, 6773, has been watching DVD's of old Addams Family shows. If you are old enough to remember "Thing" (the disembodied hand that resided in a variety of boxes in the Addams home), Thing was apparently an accomplished fist and sometimes communicated with Morticia and Gomez via code. The crew had some fun taking liberties with the text that Thing "sent"; Mike reports deciphering some profanity in Thing's code on the DVDs!

POETRY CORNER

Frank, N5SAN, 5345, wrote this little poem:

CQ FISTS
I need your help
To keep my fist alive
Look for me on 18.085

Felix, KE7JOG #12947, sent in this ditty:

There once was a Sparks named McFee,
Who confused dits with dahs on his key.
Though he sent OSO fast,
Help steamed right on past-
Now he rests in the depths of the sea.

Welcome to the New FISTS

<i>number</i>	<i>callsign</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>QTH</i>	<i>sponsor</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>callsign</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>QTH</i>	<i>sponsor</i>
13721	KJ4NX	Wayne	TN		13763	WI0N	ROSS	TX	
13722	W2ZU	William	NY		13764	AI4QZ	JERRY	FL	KN9T
13723	KD7DJQ	Duane	MT		13765	VE3HEQ	CLIVE	ON	
13724	NJ3Z	Michael	PA		13766	VE3GNU	ERNIE	ON	
13725	WB2GHC	William	NY		13767	W0KU	SCOTT	CO	
13726	AA3UJ	Seung	PA		13768	W4VZ	ART	FL	
13727	SWL	John	WA	KD7SZE	13769	W7GM	IRA	AZ	
13728	KB3OWE	Joe	PA		13770	K4AAZ	PAT	NC	
13729	N4UED	Chuck	NC		13771	W4DWS	DENNIS	GA	
13730	W1CRK	Calvert	MA		13772	KB1NCD	PAUL	RI	
13731	WD4MAD	Rob	NC		13773	WA8PGE	Fred	OH	
13732	N4CPA	Duane	TN		13774	KD5BI	VERNIE	TX	
13733	KB3NSW	Laura	PA	NP4FW	13775	WD8DIN	SIS	NC	
13734	K0VP	Ken	MI		13776	AA1DH	JOHN	AZ	
13735	KI4ZQW	Timothy	KY	KI4OYH	13777	K7JBU	BOB	OR	
13736	N4RJL	Robbie	GA		13778	WA6QOT	WILLIE	CA	
13737	W0LPD	Fred	TX		13779	W7QWD	RICHARD	NV	
13738	KY4RE	Rick	KY		13780	AA9WJ	JEFF	IN	
13739	K4BDF	Sue	FL	K4QOJ					
13740	N8JVM	Mike	MI						
13741	KM4DB	David	NH	WB2FXK					
13742	K7FPM	John	WA						
13743	W6NJX	Guy	CA						
13744	NA7CS	Curt	AZ						
13745	KK6E	Christopher	CA						
13746	W7JBJ	Gil	WA						
13747	WB4RAM	John	SC						
13748	WA6MOW	Alan	CA						
13749	N7BAV	Ee	OR						
13751	K6GLB	Dick	CA	W7RVR					
13752	AC7ZN	Glenn	UT						
13753	KD6WKY	Jerry	CA	KG6TT					
13754	K8DJ	Don	MI						
13755	WD4LWS	Dale	GA						
13756	N5EII	Tom	TX						
13757	N8LA	Louis	MO						
13758	KD0CYC	Andy	CO	K0FNR					
13759	AA6KI	Jerry	AZ						
13760	AB3CV	Jim	MD						
13761	KE5BCQ	Ronald	LA	AG4FK					
13762	K6KL	Bob	ND						

Silent Keys

K3CJQ, Edmond, 2177 (25 Feb 2008)

Jiggs Mower, WA0FGV, #1286 became a Silent Key. He was diagnosed with leukemia just a couple weeks ago so his time was extremely short.

K9RXX Anna 6947 (mother of Dennis
WD9DWE 7017 - no information)

W4RNL #2600 - LB Cebik, age 68

VE1CB Rene #11269 (no information)

VE3DLH Jerry #3292: Jerry Hughes passed away on March 3 2007. He was 71 years old and had been involved in Amateur Radio since 1969. He certainly enjoyed being a member of the FISTS club.
(info from Mrs. Hughes)

Silent Keys

Merle Glunt, W3OKN, of passed away March 16. He was 90. Glunt served as the ARRL consultant to the World Administrative Radio Conference in 1979 (WARC-79), and through years of hard work, was instrumental in gaining the 12, 17 and 30 meter bands for the Amateur Service.

During World War II, Glunt was the senior radio intercept analyst in the Radio Intelligence Division of the Federal Communications Commission, specializing in worldwide German espionage radio communications and Philippine guerrilla radio circuits. Returning to the FCC during the Korean conflict, Glunt later held such positions as Chief of the Treaty Branch and Assistant Chief Engineer, responsible for the Frequency Allocation and Treaty Division and International and Operations Division.

~~In 1973, as Assistant Chief Engineer of the FCC, Merle participated in a four-member study group that developed a report demonstrating the desirability of the WARC bands~~

KA4IFF Esther; First USA FISTS member

Esther, KA4IFF has become a Silent Key at age 91. She was the first NA member of FISTS. George, G3ZQS had visited her often and assigned her # 11 when he began the International Morse Preservation Society in 1987. Esther was an avid county hunter; she and OM, Elmer, would spend most of the year traveling in their RV activating counties.

Esther was a WAVE during WW2 and copied code in five letter groups. Elmer always said he got a kick out of seeing Esther writing down her copy of CW QSO's in five letter groups even though it was sent in plain text. Esther was a real joy to chat with on the air and in person. In addition to FISTS, she was an active member of the RNARS, INORC, MARAC, OOTC, SOWP. If you'd like to send a card to Elmer, his address is: Elmer Frost 1954 Bruce St Lakeland, FL 33801-2438 She will be sorely missed by all of us.

I Won't QRT!

My hair is white and I'm almost blind,
The days of my youth are far behind.

My neck is stiff and I can't turn my head,
Can't hear one half of what's being said.

My legs are wobbly, can hardly walk,
By glory be, my fist can still talk.

This is my message as I want it to be,
I'm still a kicking, and I won't QRT!

The rig is ancient, tubes rusting in the sockets,
And nary a dime left in my pockets.

So you think my shack's a total wreck?
To tell you the truth, it does look like heck!

My dipole is rusty and sagging on the vine,
Neighbors' TVI is at least 20 over 9!

But it's a wonderful world of ours,
Shade and sunshine and beautiful flowers,

So you can take it from me,
I'm glad I'm living, and I won't QRT!

When I reach the end of my row,
I hope to the lovely home I'll go.

And then when I leave this house of clay,
If you'll listen closely I'm quite apt to say,

Well, folks, don't worry 'bout me.
I've just passed on, and I won't QRT!

*This poem was on the back of Lou, NQ6S,
5091 (Silent Key)'s eyeball QSL card.*

From the Mailbox

It seems like only hams know what CW stands for. Perhaps we need a badge or decal that says "I Love Morse Code". A nice feature for our publication would be for members to write a paragraph or so about their very first day on the air or their first contact using CW. I am sure many of us remember the event. I sure do.

After taking the Novice test given by a volunteer examiner, I did a lot of listening and CW practice while waiting for my license to arrive. The day it did come, I had my station ready to go. I immediately tuned up the rig and sent "CQ CQ de **KN8YVF**". On about the third call, a station answered. I was so excited about hearing my call come back, my hands started shaking so badly I could not even respond. I did send that operator a note explaining what happened to me. I finally had better luck when answering others calling CQ.

Later the same day I started hearing stations sending "CQ Test". But I did just not understand why many hams needed to repeatedly test how their rigs were working because they seemed to be getting out without a problem and receiving good signal reports...! Also, I thought they were rather rude because they would not chat with me, but just resent "CQ Test." At that time I only had two Novice band frequency crystals.⁷³, John **WQ4L**

I enjoy the Keynote and am now working on learning CW traffic net procedures. The articles on abbreviations were interesting. I notice on CW traffic nets all abbreviations are Q signs. That certainly makes it easier. Thanks, Bob **KX0T**.

I have been a ham since 1960 and only work CW. I was inactive several years, got the bug again last October, and bought an up to date rig. I contacted several hams who were FISTS members and Gene, **W5GXV**, enclosed an application for membership with his QSL card. I decided to join the club and mailed my application in November. On December 5th I was working 40 meters and

coincidentally contacted Dennis, **K6DF**. During our QSO he said he recognized my call letters and had just printed my membership certificate in the club, which was ready to be mailed. He also gave me my membership number on the air. Immediately after our QSO, Dennis called me on the telephone, which was an awfully nice thing to do and we had another nice chat.

Will wonders never cease? Later I received a nice card from Irene, **WO8E**, and then a radiogram from Robert, **K8LJ**, both welcoming me to the club. I was impressed. Ken **K0ZXQ**

This is the BEST club and magazine for the great hobby of CW. I'm never on the air but I love to listen to CW and need a lot of practice to get back into the swing of it. I remember when I got my first Novice license back in 1956. Code was a MUST - only 5 wpm, but it was required. I think it still should be. Norm **KB0TBK**

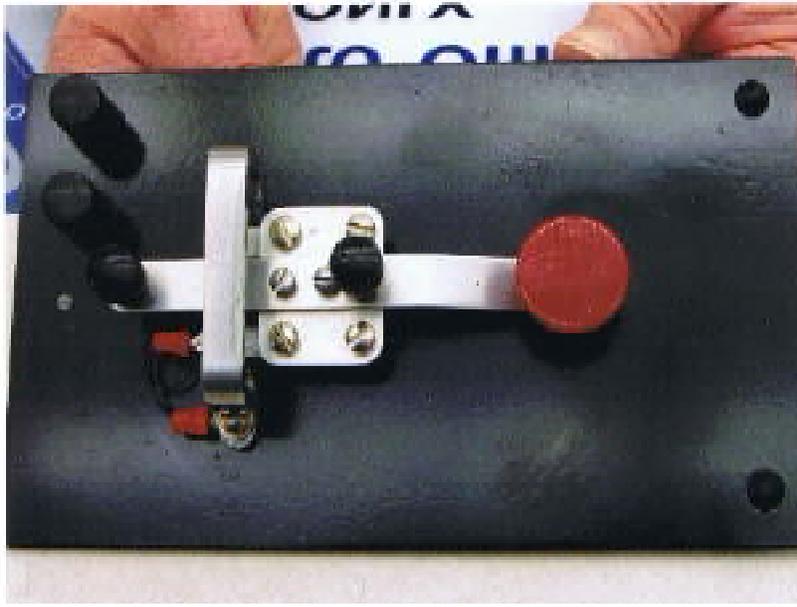
I have been a member for about a year. I have had more great QSO's, or I should say ragchews, than over a similar length of time ever.

I am working for WAS FISTS. What surprises me most often is how a QSO will develop into an hour or more rag chew. True, many members are collecting numbers for an award but they seem to like to chat, too (very unusual for award hunters).

One aspect of ham radio I have been bemoaning for some time was a lack of hams who send QSL cards. Not true for FISTS members. And some of the cards are extra special. Just seems that FISTS folks embrace the historic ideals of amateur radio and that is good for the hobby.

I have noted quite a few new ops on the club frequencies and enjoy working them even at 5 wpm. They must learn somewhere and there is not a whole lot of understanding out there among many of the older ops.

I started in this hobby 55 years ago and have seen a lot of changes. The changes have not interfered with



A Home-Brew Key

by Ken K0ZXQ

Here is a photo of a home-brew key I made using some parts from a relay that had been used to control signals on a railroad. It isn't a thing of beauty, but works extremely well, and is a pleasure to use. Those relays were used by railroads for many years, were quite large, with their contacts in a glass enclosure so their movement could be observed. They were required to have a high degree of reliability and were constructed of quality materials. Technology rendered those old railroad relays obsolete.

my enjoyment, however, the shrinking CW bands are disturbing and as good a reason as any for FISTS to exist.

QRP is a major interest of mine. Back when I was studying for my General class license I built a simple xtal oscillator in the ARRL handbook using a single 6J5 tube and about 100 volts on the plate. I noted that it would light up my rf indicator (no. 47 and wire loop) very faintly if held against the output. I hooked a hunk of wire to it and threw it out of the window and called CQ on 3731 kHz and promptly worked KN2IXP in Brooklyn NY, 100 miles away! I was hooked and have built dozens of lower power rigs over the years.

One of my early jobs was developing telemetry for use in the space programs. I had access to a lot of solid state devices and equipment. Whenever we completed a prototype or had substan-

dard devices, they were thrown away and usually ended up in my shack. Consequently, I was playing with QRPP in the early days.

One of the little rigs I built put out a whole 40 mW on 80 meters. Using this little powerhouse, I worked a station in AL and told the op I was running 40 mW. He came back and said "no wonder you are 599+ - don't you know that isn't legal?" That contact puts me in stitches ever time I think of it!

Shortly after I built a HW-8 transceiver, I was very active on traffic nets. I used a Viking Ranger for my traffic work (75 watts) and never had a problem being heard. One afternoon, I was working on the Ranger and made the mistake of trying to clean a dirty band switch with WD-40. The resulting fire put the Ranger out of commission. I had to use the HW-8 at 4 watts to run the net. I called the net and got everyone checked

in and never a complaint. I would up running the net for 3 years with that little rig and no one knew what I was using. We had several net members who were very critical of QRP, so never mentioned it to avoid discussion.

Using the HW-8 All States and 100 countries were worked without a lot of trouble. After 50 years plus of QRPing I do not feel running low power is a major disadvantage.

I still use the HW-8 and have an FT-817 in the shack, also. I have been using it at 100 watts because I moved and haven't set up the QRP gear yet. Rig is in the living room and my YF takes a dim view of a lot of gear on the desk.

Contesting is not a big thing with me but I would like see some VHF CW sprints as well as a 160 meter sprint. Think it would be fun to see who would pop up on CW on VHF. 73 de Ike N3IK

Memory of an Elmer

by Bob Wheaton

Fifty-one years ago I was a kid-Ham just upgraded to General, and I delivered Western-Union telegrams on my bike. The office manager was Ed Greer, K8CKW. Ed was a master telegrapher, easily topping 70 WPM on American Morse using a bug and clacker. Ed became a ham shortly before I did and immediately set off in pursuit of the ARRL's 35 WPM Code Proficiency Certificate, earning it in short order; it stopped at 35 WPM. He could shift effortlessly between the American and International Morse codes, even ragchewed on the air with other Old Timers, railroad or landline ops, in American Morse listening to beeps, rather than clicks and clacks. Ed was my idol when it came to telegraphy.

In school shop class I built a bug

A faithful reproduction of my 1956 first TX on the air. A 6V6 tri-tet oscillator from ARRL's "How to Become a Radio Amateur" and some earlier Radio Amateur's Handbooks. Type 80 full wave rectifier in the power supply. Cigar boxes from the 1950's just like the originals.

J-38 key my dad brought home from WW2.

S-38A, I bought in 1956 for \$25 used. All mods my own. Every S-38A needed "Crank" knobs!

With a lampcord-fed 80M dipole, I worked 28 states in 3 months as a Novice. 13W input.

Behind TX on right, T/R SW and harmonic trap. FCC grand island, NB, heard the original TX 7 MHz harmonics and sent me their QSL.

from either a photo or complete plans, I believe from Radio & TV News. It used half-inch boiler plate for the base, a copper tube soldered to the armature fit over a machine screw in the base to provide both a mount and a pivot bearing. The armature and contacts were salvaged from a discarded auto radio vibrator, as was the reed or vibrating spring. It was crude, but it worked well.

Not long after I finished it and tested it on the air, I took it to work to show Ed what I'd built.

Ed's eyes teared up a bit as he inspected it carefully. He walked to his desk, picked up his own Vibroplex Lightning Bug and put it into my hands, asking if I would take it in trade for the homebrew bug, saying he'd never seen anything quite so resourceful and that he'd really like to have it in his key collection.

I was dumbstruck! Would I trade? Would I ever! I protested weakly that I'd be getting the better part of the deal, but Ed assured me my homebrew would have more than just financial value for him, so we shook hands and the Lightning Bug went home with me. Sadly, I don't have it anymore; it was sold off with most of my radio equipment after I went in the Navy in 1959.

I did learn to use it though and was soon doing 30 WPM. I've always had a positive attitude about the code, instilled in me by Ed and several early mentors. I took the attitude: Why fight it; have fun with it instead. Ed, in a very special way, contributed to that attitude - and it wasn't until years later that it became clear to me what that "trade" was really all about... Robert G. Wheaton, W5XW FISTS #4038



QRP with John Shannon K3WWP Column #84

April 12 is an interesting date in spaceflight history, as was recently pointed out to me by Larry W2LJ.

April 12, 1960: Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human to orbit the earth.

April 12, 1970: one day before the famous and oft quoted words "Houston, we have a problem."

That, in regard to the explosion aboard the Apollo 13 spacecraft.

April 12, 1981 - The first flight of the Space Shuttle Columbia issuing in the STS era of re-usable spacecrafts.

Why did I mention all that? Well, April 12, 2008 is a very special personal date for me. It's the day on which I made a QSO using QRP/CW/simple wire antennas for the 5,000th consecutive day.

That streak began unknowingly back on August 5, 1994 when I worked KG9N/C6A. Ever since then I got on the air long enough each day to make at least one QSO. Actually in the 5,000 days I made some 47,500 QSO's or an average of 9.5 QSO's per day - again, ALL with QRP/CW/simple wire antennas. Of those QSO's, some 13,400+ were DX QSO's, i.e. with countries other than the USA and Canada. In my log for the streak are some 14,500 unique call signs, meaning I contacted that many different hams in the streak. I think this shows that such a minimal setup really

does work, despite the skepticism of some hams who have never tried it. That's why I'm making the streak the topic of this column.

Along the way it has encouraged many hams, who for one reason or other can't use high power and big antennas, to still get on the HF CW bands and have a lot of fun. Hopefully this column will do the same for still more hams.

I've never sought personal glory from the streak. I've kept it up for just a couple reasons. One being that it certainly does demonstrate the extreme efficiency and usefulness of CW in this day when CW is being shunned by so many hams who've never experienced the delight of using the mode.

Also I do it just because it is a personal challenge to myself which helps me keep active on the bands, and it is just plain and simply a lot of fun.

The streak was suggested by my friend Eric (later to become KB3BFQ). He and I are both sports fans and of course there are a lot of streaks in sports. Eric wondered how a streak could be applied to ham radio and thought maybe to see how many consecutive days a QSO could be made.

We added the qualification that it must be made with QRP/CW/simple wire antennas, and the rest is history now. I can say it can be done for at least 5,000 consecutive days, Eric.

I've never done anything special to keep the streak going. By that, I mean I never checked into nets nor made skeds for my QSO's. I have made a few skeds along the way for other reasons, but not to extend the streak. And on days when I did make such sked QSO's I always made it a point to get another QSO in addition. All QSO's were simply the result of getting on the bands and calling CQ, answering some one else's CQ, or entering a sprint or contest.

My friend Tom WY3H recently interviewed me about the streak for another ham radio publication, and one of the toughest questions he asked was what were my most memorable moments in the streak. There are just so many, I find it hard to narrow it down to just a few. One thing that always comes to mind is having VK6HQ near Perth, Australia answer my 30M QSO not once, but on 3 separate occasions. Perth is just about as far from Kittanning as you can get without going into outer space. There are many QSO's with rare, hard to work DX countries that come to mind. Some that I got a special kick out of were JT1DA in Mongolia, 5A1A in Libya, VQ9QM & VQ9IO in Chagos Is., and well probably a couple other dozen I won't list here to save space.

Some other special things during the streak were as follows in no particular order: June 12, 1996 - Worked W4HG in NC on 10,12,15,17,20,30,40, and 80 meters in a half hour.

November 2, 1997 - Missed a clean sweep in the SS by not getting YT and NE.

November 7, 1999 - 412 QSO's in the SS - my busiest day.

April 21, 2000 - WAC in 6 consecutive QSO's on 5 different bands - RV9CP-20M, VK4XA-17M, UX1MM-10M, W5UJA-15M, YV6AZC-12M, and EA8ALP-20M.

March 21, 2000 - 23 DX QSO's - none in a contest.

July 15, 2000 - the last day in a streak of 154 consecutive days with at least one DX QSO.

May 30, 2005 - My first time ever operating portable in the field - The Hootowl Sprint with Tom WY3H. Again here I could go on forever with highlights, but I won't lest it get boring. For those of you not yet bored, I refer you to my web site for more details.

Finally, again I repeat the bottom line purpose of the streak is to prove that QRP/CW/simple wire antennas are a viable way of making QSO's on the ham bands. I think the streak proves that.

Thanks to all who have followed the streak over the years and sent along their comments, 100% of them in a positive vein. I have no intention of ending the streak of my own free will. It will take something beyond my control to bring it to an end.

Till next issue, all the best and give QRP a try if you haven't done so. You may be surprised at what you can do with it. 73 de John K3WWP

CW -- Live Long and Prosper!

By Lee Barrett – K7NM

I'm sorry – but the code elimination for licensing cannot pass quietly into the night without comment. For those of us who had to demonstrate proficiency in this art to obtain our licenses and privileges, the recent FCC order is like having your father give a new car to your best friend after you had earned one for yourself.

But the milk is spilt and the purpose of this article is not to soak a crying towel. Rather, it is to point out that this proverbial misstep into a "prairie muffin" may actually be the best thing to have hap-

pened - not only to ham radio but especially for the ranks of our CW fellowship.

Certainly it is not lost on any of the older generation(s) that today's world is becoming less disciplined. Immediate gratification of all desires is becoming the marketing ploy of the day. It's in all of the media and has infiltrated a large number of business practices. So why should our hobby be exempt?

Without naming names, there are entities that directly benefit from the no code decision. More hams lead to more members, increased revenue, larger empires and, ultimately, soaring salaries. What a dream it would be to be actually paid to practice my amateur hobby – oh, wait – wouldn't that make it a professional hobby? Now that these professionals have bled out CW on the altar, one can only speculate what will be the next mode or spectrum sacrificed to grow "the business"? But I digress –

Though my crystal ball batteries have long been dead, I have to consider the possibility that this "no code" policy will eventually backfire. Let me explain.

Granted, CW is an old mode and has perhaps been replaced by digital modes. So what? Over the past 25 years (the age of the kilowatt SSB appliance operator), the real roll and value of CW has been as a "gate" to protect the hobby from those who seek instant license gratification. Since learning CW requires a little effort, a license could not be instantly obtained – thereby keeping many undisciplined people out.

All one must do is take a listen between 14.300MHz and 14.310MHz on any given afternoon and see what the future holds for the phone bands with the CW gate removed. (Similar exhibits can be witnessed on 75meters at night.) Self-appointed - yet clue-less - "experts" expound on and viciously demean everyone's operating methods and stations except their own. When challenged, their lack of expertise is immediately replaced with a similar lack of vocabulary – usually limited to words comprised

of four letters.

(continued on next page)

And, that is if you can hear them through the “buck-shot” from the maladjusted linear up 3KHz being driven with the speech processor set at a minimum of 20dB compression. The guy sounds like a vacuum cleaner every time he takes a breath.

The current limited pockets of such operation will soon be exacerbated to cover whole bands. Once a good-hearted new ham has fallen victim of half a dozen personal profane insults or is bawled out in obscene terms for being on someone’s “personal frequency”, the desire to operate will quickly wane.

Then will come the life altering decision. Disenchanted with the hobby he or she will ask, “What will I do with all this expensive equipment?” The answer will be either to sell it or try a new mode. Selling requires the effort to take down the antennas and box the gear - and then you will not get what you paid for it. So the logical alternative is to plug in an inexpensive key and try CW. (If disenchanted, why would even more money be spent on additional sophisticated modes?)

After 42 years as a ham, I have seen multiple 10-year-olds master 5wpm in as little as 3 weeks! It is not hard – it just takes a little discipline and time to master. It won’t take long for this ham to discover the wonderful world we all enjoy on CW.

CW offers true hams that have a higher level of discipline by definition. Most are gentlemen and ladies. I can’t recall one QSO where four letter words were used. Sure, there are “lids”, but no part of life is immune to that. Overwhelmingly, this new ham to the CW ranks will discover that the CW mode is really a sanctuary – and its operation is almost therapeutic! You can work DX with 599 or you can rag chew.

With this possible increased influx of new CW operators, it is fortunate that we have FISTS already in place. We would all do well to become code buddies to assist the transition of these hams in con-

version. It may not be an overnight exodus to CW but there will inevitably be an upsurge and we will need to support these new CW operators. If enough of this growth happens, FISTS could also become a significant voice in the ear of the FCC.

As a final suggestion, the FCC should do a correlative study. The CW requirements were systematically reduced over a long period of time. (For example, the original 20wpm CW requirement for Extra Class was reduced to 5wpm for several years and now has been abolished.) Wouldn’t it be interesting to see if the FCC budget required for enforcement and litigation has increased as a function of the reduction in the CW requirements? This would be the best metric possible to validate this projected CW growth theory – short of finding new batteries for my crystal ball.

CW and Q Codes

Here are some additional arguments for CW and Q-Code in an era of cell phones, satellites, and the Internet.

Unightly cell phone towers (which may deter bees and bats from performing their essential work), are easy targets for terrorist sabotage.

Fragile satellites orbit in an environment which is saturated with space junk. Also, as potential enemies become more sophisticated, the servicability of a satellite can become problematic.

The Internet is vulnerable to cyber-terrorism (China experimentally shut down the nation of Latvia for a day, and most nations are quietly developing plans to cripple the communications of other nations in case of war.)

On the other hand, as every FISTS member so well knows, amateur radio CW communication is a time-tested, dispersed, distributed digital network Rather than being an anachronism, perhaps the hour of CW’s greatest contribution has not yet arrived.

73,Roy / WA2TWS FISTS #2903

Need Rhode Island?

Bob, W1YRC, #7604, writes:
Lately I've been more active working members who need Rhode Island for FISTS Worked All States. I've also been promoting FISTS more.

Thanks, Bob! Rhode Island is one of the more sought-after states, so it is much appreciated.

Please . . . answer someone's CQ at the speed they are sending and USE SPACES between your letters and words.

The most common, yet most easily remedied, problem is SPACING.

You can be sending perfectly formed code, but if it's all run together, it still sounds like gibberish and gives you a bad fist.

Keeping our Principles

Nancy,
Thanks for the good work. This organization is the one group that is true to the principles of the hobby I learned back in 1965. 73 John, KU4BT, #6215

Thanks, John - FISTS are very special people!

There ARE Kids Who Like Code by Calvin K0DXC

Hello everyone! I am Calvin, K0DXC, a 13 year old ham of Waconia, Minnesota. I have been an Amateur Radio operator for about 3 years now, and I have known the Morse code for 5 years. Amateur Radio has been a great hobby for me and I would like to tell you about myself and my interest in promoting the hobby and seeing more young hams getting involved.

As I said, I have been a ham for about 3 years now. I am very thankful and lucky that I was introduced to ham radio at a young age. I have everything to owe to my grandpa, Gary, K9MMS.

I really don't remember the very first time I was introduced to the hobby. It was probably a simple question like, "Grandpa, what's that huge thing in you backyard?" (referring to the 70+ foot towers in the backyard), or maybe it started with a question about at the time in my opinion all the "junk", radios, wires, coax's, . . . the list goes on. For all I know he could have simply told me one day. Whatever it was, I am very thankful that it happened. After that, things went by quickly. We ran the Kid's Day contest in January, 2003. I was hooked! Soon after that he had me sending and receiving Morse code at 5 words per minute on a straight key. He also started seriously lecturing me

on subjects of propagation and radio electronic theory. Imagine that at me only being 8 years old! He would make a great teacher though; I still actually remember some of the things he said. He did a great job of "dumbing" it down for me to actually grasp what he was saying and be able to store it in my mind.

Well, I had the code learned, now all that I needed was either a few more lectures from grandpa or a book to study with. Unfortunately, my journey with ham radio was stalled. . . . We moved. Notice my grandpa has a 9 call, I have a zero call and I always have. I was born and raised in Illinois but then right before I was almost ready to take the test and get my ham radio license we made the move to Minnesota.

As you probably guessed, I didn't end up getting my ham radio license for a while. When I moved, I lost all contact with the Amateur Radio world. We saw my grandpa on Holidays but that was about it. We never really talked about the radio anymore. Of course I still noticed the towers in the backyard, that's always how I noticed that we were almost to his house because they could be seen from a ways away. Then one Thanksgiving or Christmas I surprised him out of his mind. . .

"Grandpa, could I still get my Amateur Radio license?" I asked.



Calvin at home in his shack in Minnesota.

I could tell he was happy and I really wanted my license so I got the Now Your Talking, all you need for your first Amateur Radio license and got down to studying. Things went well and he was still there to answer my questions over the phone and then only 2 weeks later in 2005 when I was 10 years old I passed the Technician test and received my Amateur Radio license.

I was happy; I still remembered Kid's Day and I wanted to get started in my Ham Radio career. That summer my grandpa came up to Minnesota to help me get things set up. By then I figured out that there was a ham living a couple blocks away and we went out to his club field day site. I had a lot of fun there also. I got to meet a bunch of other hams and watch experienced operators run a contest. I don't think that I really made any Q's at that field day

Eventually time came for him to return to Illinois, I still remember the day. So it was the middle of the summer and I would always try to check 6 meters for an opening once a day but I didn't know how to set the dupe on my radio for repeater use yet so I didn't end up making my first contact until a couple weeks later. I ended up going down to Stan's (KB0CQ) house who lives down the road and asked if he would like to meet me on 6 meters later that day. It all worked out, he even had another ham wait on frequency so that I could end up making my first and second QSO.

Anyway, after that I figured out

The CQ WW DX CW contest at my grandpa's QTH.



site but I learned by watching. Most of the time my grandpa spent up in Minnesota visiting was spent helping me set up a station. It's quite a task as I figured out, but I enjoyed it. It is a great memory and is one I will always hold with me in my mind.

how to set the duplex on my radio to allow me to use the repeaters and for a while I had a lot of fun using them. It's embarrassing now, but I remember sending out a QSL card for every QSO in the repeaters. I was a newbie and I remembered getting fantastic

cards from hams all around the U.S. and Caribbean islands so I decided to do the same thing. At that point in time I was basically a repeater ham. I had forgotten the Morse code during the 2 year period in which I had no contact in Amateur Radio.

I then ended up getting tired of the repeaters because there was nobody to talk to. There isn't much action in the repeaters that I was using, and I got bored and went inactive for about 7 months. You're probably asking yourself why I didn't upgrade to General? I'll tell you; I mentioned that I had forgotten the Morse code during the 2 years I didn't have contact

with ham radio. There was still a code requirement back then. I hate to say it but I didn't go for my General because I didn't want to learn the Morse code.

Then unfortunately, the FCC dropped the code. I, along with many others upgraded to General. So there I was, a no-code General working phone on HF. I had fun on phone for a while before I realized two things. Number one, there were hardly ever any openings to Europe or any DX location on phone or if there was I could never hear them with my equipment. Number two, when there was a DX opening I could never work them because the

pileup was too big for my 16 syllable callsign (KC0USZ, kilo Charlie zero uniform sierra Zulu at the time) and my low power station to break through.

Then I remembered the great time I had using CW on a straight key with my grandpa four years ago. I didn't remember the code or else I would have gotten my general years ago when I got bored with the repeaters. Eventually I got so sick of never being able to work any DX on phone that I decided to finally use the mode that I enjoyed so much as an eight year old. So for the first time ever on HF, I switched the mode over, turned on the 500Hz filter, and



Calvin in the Multi-2 contest operation he and his grandpa, K9MMS ran during the CQ WW DX CW contest in November, 2007 at his QTH.

tuned down to 14.025 in hopes of rediscovering the love for CW that I had before I was licensed.

Of course, as you remember me saying, I didn't remember the code or I would have used it to pass my general before it was eliminated from testing. So to make up for my lack of skill, I took a sheet with all the Morse characters and letters printed on it and had it next to my notepad. When I heard a letter, I frantically searched for it on the sheet.

You are probably wondering why I didn't actually learn the code before going down on CW. Well, I am a kid and that's just what we do. I guess that makes us kids. I had also tried to learn the code using CD's and I would end up learning a few letters and then I would get bored and end up stopping and saying I would do it later and then I would never do it.

Anyway, I called CQ, and sure enough someone came back to me. I think at the time I was going slower than 5 words per minute and so I was able to copy his call after he sent it a few times. I could send the code and knew about all the characters so sending was not a problem and I did not make a fool of myself but I did not copy to much of what he sent.

It was a learning experience and I enjoyed it very much. I kept on doing what I was doing and each time I started to get comfortable with the speed I was at I would

increase it a couple words a minute and then I would improve that way. Then, one day on 30 meters I found and copied my first DX on CW all by myself. It was a station in Denmark, nothing rare, but it was a first time thing for me so I was proud of it. I called him and called him but it ended up I never got him in the log. (not to worry though because as of now I have worked him several times).

I kept working CW and it seemed to grow on me, it was very fun and it brought back many memories of the straight key lessons my grandpa gave to me years ago. I also got very guilty that I had learned the CW when I was eight but would not learn it when I was 12. I went to a V.E. exam site and took the code test even though it was no longer required. I passed easily with the first 25 characters sent I had copied in a row. They gave me a C.S.C.E. and I am now proud to say I am NOT a no-code General.

Eventually I started working DX regularly, it is still one of the things I love about CW. DX is very common on CW and a lot of times I hear DX calling CQ with no answer because they are more common countries and people who work CW a lot have worked them many times. On phone, I hear pileups for Mexico and common European countries.

Eventually I started taking CW into contests with me. I still remember the first CW contest I

ever ran by myself. It was the NAQP CW this January, I started off with an insanely high Q rate. After the first hour I had about 60 Q's. I was averaging a Q a minute. I was surprised that I was able to hold my frequency for that long without getting clobbered by a big gun but even more surprising was that my Q rate held. I was averaging about a Q a minute for the first 2 ½ hours before I started to slack off. After the run dried up I started searching and pouncing, racking up multipliers. All in all, I ended with 278 QSO's and 103 Multipliers. I thought it was bad but my mind was changed when I was reminded that it was my first ever CW contest and I was running 100 watts and a vertical with a few radials.

CW is a great mode and I have had a lot of fun with it. I have now improved to speeds of up to 30 words per minute and I still improve every time I use this fine mode on the air. I would like to thank all the people who have ever had QSO's with me on the air with CW. Whether it was when I just started to relearn this mode or if it was a few days ago going 30 words per minute I would like to thank you for our QSO. I enjoy going out there whenever I can to prove adults wrong because...

THERE ARE YOUNG HAMS OUT THERE THAT LOVE CW.

This has been my story, 73 for now, -Calvin, K0DXC
Dit dit FISTS number 13434

Calling CQ

By Mke K8XF

I have noticed in the past two years the art of calling CQ has changed. Too many ops seem to call CQ and never receive an answer. Here is a reason your effort went in vain.

Calling CQ 12 times and signing your call twice, calling CQ five times and signing your call once, calling CQ twice and sending your call sloppily once without a K and the end. I could go on and on regarding the strange CQ's that I have heard.

I have been a Ham almost 38 years and here is the way to do it: CQ CQ CQ DE K8XF K8XF this sequence sent three times...OR.....CQ CQ CQ DE K8XF K8XF K8XF ...sequence sent three times with a PSE K at the end. And if possible use qsk.

I have heard some ops call CQ forever and if they use qsk I can stop the CQ and we can start a qso. Also, Never Never use KN at the end of the CQ sequence. KN means - do not break me- If you call CQ and then want a reply why send KN? This makes no sense. Just like the start of a qso an Opr sends RST, Qth, Name it makes good operating practice and sense to conform to some sort of logical CQ.

I will not reply to some Opr that calls CQ in some weird way. Lets all get on the same page.

73

Mike, K8XF Fists 6773

Radio Electronics Officer

US Merchant Marine 1980-1996

VIVA CW

It's Deja Vu All Over Again

By Charlie KA8OQF #1478

You read the story a newsletter or two ago about me'n'Rob KC8LNO being down at the club station, and him being scared out of three years' growth when I managed to nail that rare one, and the war whoop woke ol' Rob rather briskly...(you did read

the story, didn't you?)

Anyway, it was a month or so later...we were all out at the club station again, after the class in Repeater 301 (Glenn W8AK is the club repeater guru, and was teaching us all about how to do this/that/the other on some local systems). I was on console 1, surfing the bands to see who might be on. Rob had a couple students over on console 2, explaining the radio operation. The students were on 30 meters, and they ran across a signal. Rob asked me to explain to them just what was happening.

"That's a DX station, running a pileup. He's just giving a couple letters in the calling station's call to ID him, and then a signal report. Haven't heard his call yet, though...wonder who he is?"

After a couple minutes, the DX station gave his call, and we tried to look it up on the master call chart. ??? "That prefix isn't there...what's the deal here?"

I brought up the internet and Googled the call.

TX5C.Clipperton.

There was much hootin' and hollerin'. Mostly by me

Rob's students and I swapped consoles. They continued looking around, and I went to work. Paddle adjustments. Beam headings. Power levels. Keyer speeds. SteppIR antenna tuner adjustments.

By now, Rob's students had departed for the evening, and Rob was sorta kickin' back, relaxing and watching me do the beep'n'boop thing. 90 watts out, direct beam heading...third try and HE'S IN THE LOG!!!! And once again, Rob was woken up out of a low-grade nap by the sound of exultation...

Both he and I are wondering...if he's my good luck charm, being asleep when the rare ones are on...what will come first, DXCC or brain cramps due to sleep deprivation? 73 Charlie KA8OQF

FISTS EAST ASIA Newsletter Issue#21		morsEAsia April 2008
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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/17m: 0800GMT on Sundays

Contacts				
Role	Name	Callsign	FISTS#	E-Mail Address
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 Please send your SASE's or SAE's + IIRC/SAE to the bureau.				
E-Mail Distribution: You can receive the morsEAsia via e-mail. Please email webadmin with your FISTS#.				
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Username and Password: Please ask webadmin <i>via e-mail</i> with your FISTS# if you don't know or forget them.				

from Editor

Harry, JL3AMK #15002

New Members

Welcome to the FEA!

- #15046: Percy, VR2YMY - March 13
- #15047: Kiyo, JA2FEA - March 13
- #15048: Kuri, JE1EQE - March 18
- #15049: Hide, JA9MAT - March 18

XU7AVO in Mid-April

Masumi, JA3AVO #15029 was active from Turks & Caicos Islands as VP5/W3AVO in January. His next target is Cambodia. He will be on the air as XU7AVO from April 15th to 17th. 80m to 6m, CW and SSB.

Many Thanks

To: Atsu, JE1TRV #7763, Man, JG0SXC #8934, Rie, JN1XLV #15024, Leo, JJ8KGZ #4843 and Nao, JO3HPM #15008 for posting messages.

from Members

My First English Test in 20 Years

Nao, JO3HPM #15008

English is the de facto standard language, when we want to communicate with ham all over the world. Non-native English speakers are requested to acquire English skill as well as Morse skill.

When I operate Morse code, I translate Japanese to English first, then translate English to the code. Often I feel frustrated not to be able to express what I want to say well by English. My Morse communication is obviously limited by my English ability.

To break this situation, I decided to study hard for an exam. I selected a TOEIC (Test Of English for International Communication) as my target because it is a major test in Japan and a lot of companies use its score for employment or promotion.

I took a TOEIC for the first time on March 23. This is my first English test in 20 years since I was a student. I felt tense in my shoulder as if the first QSO using the code. A TOEIC consists of a 45 minutes listening test and a 75 minutes writing test. I tried my best, but the result of listening test will not be good.

My excuse is that I usually operate only on CW mode and hardly operate on phone mode at all. My ear is trained to catch not voice but single tone. I guess there is a narrow filter in my ear.

Sometimes I envy native English speaker because they don't have to study English. On the other hand, I feel sympathy for them because they must be gentlemen even if they hear strange incomprehensible English from me.

Anyway, I like English Morse communication. I hope to meet you on the air.

FEA Meeting in Machida!

Atsu, JE1TRV #7763

On March 16 Sunday afternoon, Nao (JO3HPM) visited my home in Machida, Tokyo. I called local CW friends, too. We enjoyed coffee and chat at small garden. After that they inspected my station. Hi.

After strict inspection by Nao, I was authorized to operate my station as a net controller of FEA CW NET Part-II. On 17:00JST I called CQ FEA NET, then John/9V1VV and John/VK4TJ replied to me. Wow! I was excited and time passed very quickly. Since we reserved a pub restaurant from 18:00 I had to leave the net around 17:30. I sent 73 to both John, then we moved to the pub. At the pub another 4 brass-pounders were joined and we enjoyed drinking and eating and chatting. Since most of us had to work next day (Monday!), we closed the party earlier around 21:30. Thank you for a pleasant time! See you soon again.



Left to Right: Nao/JO3HPM #15008, Ron/JA1HMK, and Jun/JQ1BWT #15036



Center to Right: Masa/JJ1IZW #15026 and Aki/JP1BJB#15039



L to C: Atsu/JE1TRV #7763, Nao/JO3HPM #15008, Hoz/JL1IRB #15030 and Manabu/JE1RZR #15020



L to R: Aki/JJ1TTG and Aki/JP1BJB#15039



Nao is inspecting my radio if it is usable for FEA CW NET control.

JA0 QRS Net Man, JG0SXC #8934

Some of my friends and I started a schedule QSO every week March last year. We are now so happy that we have continued our schedule QSOs for a year.

A couple of the participants who often join it are located in the range of ten to forty kilo meters in diameter. These distances are an important key for us to contact easily with direct radio waves even on HF bands.

Still anyone are welcome to the schedules if a condition permits. We are glad if you break-in it anytime.

Name	JA0 QRS Net
Speed	10 to 15 WPM
Frequency	7027.3kHz +/- QRM
Time	21:30 to 22:30 every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday in JST (JST = GMT + 9 hours)
Web Site	http://www.ja0qrs.net/ (Japanese)

Members' News - Short Messages

Rie, JN1XLV #15024 (YL): Jogging is my best pleasure these days. I feel spring is the best season for jogging, because SAKURA, which means cherry blossoms, is in full bloom here and there. It's really beautiful. Unfortunately, it's hard for me to jog 'cause I've caught a cold... cough cough.

Leo, JJ8KGZ #4843: Let's have a party under the cherry blossoms!

from FEA Net Manager

Nao, JO3HPM #15008

New Frequency Definition for the FEA Part2 Net

A lot of QRM from testers sometimes disturbed our net. So I redefined the net frequency adopting suggestions from members.

Frequency	between 14.049 and 14.054 MHz and between 18.089 and 18.094 MHz
Starting time	0800UTC on Sundays (no change)

I mainly use 14.054 as before. I'm going to use 14.049 during Japanese contest because most Japanese contest use 14.050 and above. I'm going to use 17m range when 20m is occupied by international contest or when the condition is poor. If you can't find any net participant signals in 20m range, then please look through 17m range.

I hope a lot of members join and enjoy the net. See you there!

FEA CW Net Results: No. 167 to 171

No.	Y/M/D	GMT	MHz	Controller	Participant
171-2	2008/3/30	0800-0900	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	VK4TJ(John), JE1RZR(Manabu)
171-1	2008/3/30	0000-0100	7.026	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JJ1IZW/m(Masa), JO3HPM(Nao), JG0SXC(Man), JE1TRV(Atsu), JE1RZR(Manabu)
170-2	2008/3/23	0800-0845	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	JE1RZR(Manabu), 9V1VV(John)
170-1	2008/3/22	2300-0015	7.026	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JO3HPM(Nao), JK7UST(Sugi), JG0SXC(Man), JQ2SFZ(Isao)
169-2	2008/3/16	0800-0830	14.054	JE1TRV(Atsu)	9V1VV(John), VK4TJ(John)
169-1	2008/3/15	2300-0011	7.026	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JE1RZR(Manabu), JK1TCV(Kazu), JJ8KGZ(Leo), JO3HPM(Nao), JG0SXC(Man), JL1IRB(Hoz), JQ2SFZ(Isao)
168-2	2008/3/9	0800-0850	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	VK4TJ(John)
168-1	2008/3/8	2300-2340	7.026	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JE1RZR(Manabu)
167-2	2008/3/2	0800-0907	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	9V1VV(John), JE1RZR(Manabu), JE1TRV(Atsu)
167-1	2008/3/1	2300-0012	7.026	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JE1RZR(Manabu), JL1IRB(Hoz), JO3HPM(Nao), JG0SXC(Man)

See You Next Month!

FISTS EAST ASIA Newsletter Issue#22		morsEAsia May 2008
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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/17m: 0800GMT on Sundays

Contacts				
Role	Name	Callsign	FISTS#	E-Mail Address
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 Please send your SASE's or SAE's with IRC's or stamps to the bureau.				
E-Mail Distribution: You can receive the morsEAsia via e-mail. Please email webadmin with your FISTS#.				
Back Issues: Would you like to read back issues of FISTS Newsletters? You can read them at password-locked FEA web page; morsEAsia, KeyNote and FDU Newsletter.				
Username and Password: Please ask webadmin <i>via e-mail</i> with your FISTS# if you don't know or forget them.				

From Editor

Harry, JL3AMK #15002

Members These Days

Sugi, JK7UST #7178 seems to enjoy operating his K3, the high-performance HF transceiver from Elecraft, with full of smile. He said he wanted to build a K2 last year, but he has got K3 instead of K2.

Leo, JJ8KGZ #4843 is a founder of new CW club, Japan Brasspounder Association. JBA is founded for encouraging CW beginners, for making CW ragchew (not cookie-cutter style) become popular, for making improve their CW operating techniques, etc.

Some of JA members will exhibit a booth of "FISTS EAST ASIA" at Ham Fair 2008 in Tokyo, Japan. It will be held from August 23rd to 24th. **Sugi, JK7UST #7178** is a representative and **Hoz, JL1IRB #15030** is an executive.

http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/4_Library/A-4-6_ham-fair/ham-fair.htm

Taro, JR0QWW #5578 seems to be inactive because he is very busy on his business --- Me too!

Hoz, JL1IRB #15030 is active as "/m" when he drives his car to his home at night.

Atsu, JE1TRV #7763 enjoys his new "90-degree VIZBUG" key. <http://vizkey.com/>

Masumi, JA3AVO #15029 enjoyed his "DX vacation" in Cambodia during mid April. He is active from overseas, like **VP5/W3AVO** and **XU7AVO** this year. He seems to enjoy his retired life. QSL to his homecall, **JA3AVO**. OK via FISTS BURO.

Nao, JO3HPM #15008 has still been active on FEA Net. Our Net keeps high activities by his effort. Thanks a million, Nao.

Special QRP Stations in Japan

8J4P and **8J6P** are now active until June 30. These are special event stations for the "QRP Day" (June 17). They run less than five watts output.

From FEA Net Manager

Nao, JO3HPM #15008

FEA CW Net Results: No. 172 to 175

No.	Y/M/D	GMT	MHz	Controller	Participant
175-2	2008/4/27	0800-0908	14.054	VK4TJ(John)	JE1TRV(Atsu), JO3HPM(Nao)
175-1	2008/4/26	2300-2330	7.026	JO3HPM(Nao)	JJ8KGZ(Leo), JQ2SFZ(Isao)
174-2	2008/4/20	0800-0900	18.094	JO3HPM(Nao)	VK4TJ(John), JE1TRV(Atsu), 9V1VV(John)
174-1	2008/4/19	2300-2340	7.026	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JE1RZR(Manabu), JO3HPM(Nao), JK7UST(Sugi)
173-2	2008/4/13	0800-0900	18.094	JO3HPM(Nao)	VK4TJ(John), JE1RZR(Manabu)
173-1	2008/4/12	2300-0002	7.026	JE7YTQ(Sugi)	JO3HPM(Nao), JE1RZR(Manabu), JJ8KGZ(Leo), JG0SXC(Man)
172-2	2008/4/6	0800-0900	14.054	JO3HPM(Nao)	JK7UST(Sugi), VK4TJ(John), JE1TRV(Atsu)
172-1	2008/4/5	2300-0000	7.026	JJ8KGZ(Leo)	JO3HPM(Nao), JK7UST(Sugi), JE1TRV(Atsu), JQ2SFZ(Isao), JG0SXC(Man)

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