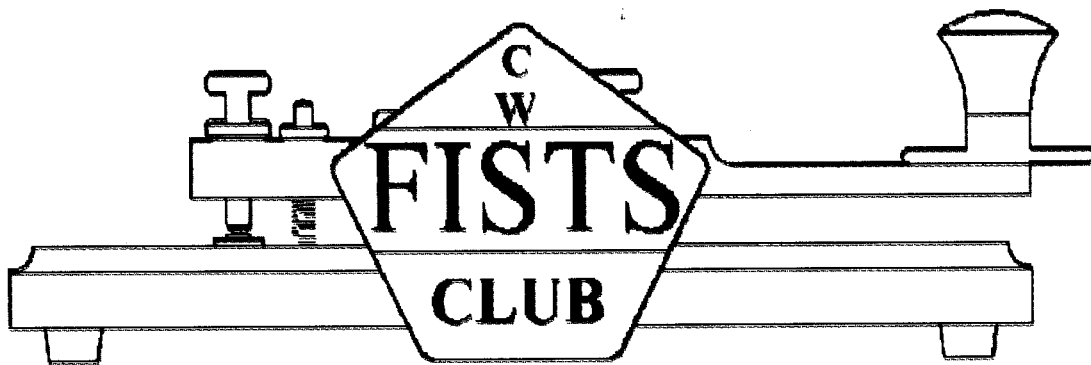


The Keynote

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 the 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 Hill Dr, Clinton Twp MI 48038 or paypal to fists@tir.com.
Irene has no email capability. Some shirt sizes are sold out.**

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! I hope you had a good time in the G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest and the Get Your Feet Wet Weekend. As we all know, the bands stink and it is frustrating because it seems like no one is "out there", but don't despair! We have the Fall Sprint coming up and that ought to bring some more operators out of the woodwork.

You may know that our own Mr. QRP, K3WWP, John Shannon, has a QRP club -the North American QRP CW Club (NAQCC). They are celebrating their fourth anniversary in October with the Special Event Call N3A.

To add some excitement and challenge to the FISTS Fall Sprint and to help the NAQCC celebrate, for the purposes of our Fall Sprint (NOT for Century Award or other awards) contacts with stations operating N3A/(call area) will be worth FIVE POINTS. There will be several N3A stations on the air at the same time, designated with N3A/(call area). Each one is a separate station and may be contacted for the bonus points. Regular Sprint rules apply to these contacts.

And the NAQCC is offering a certificate to the FISTS member who makes the most band QSO's with the N3A stations during Issue'6 2008

THEIR Sprint on October 15th, and a certificate to the one making the most band QSO's with N3A stations during the entire month (including the sprints). A band QSO means working N3A on a specific band, i.e. working N3A/3 on 80 meters, then 40, and also N3A/4 on 40 and 30 counts as 4 band QSO's towards the certificate. Only one specific band QSO may be counted, i.e. working N3A/3 twice on 80 only counts as one band QSO. In case of ties, duplicate certificates will be awarded.

In addition, anyone who works a N3A station can apply for a special N3A certificate and/or QSL card. A large 9x12 SASE with \$1.00 postage is required for the certificate. For a QSL only, send a large SASE with first class postage.

For details of who is operating N3A, look at web page http://www.usatek.net/~yoel/main_n3a.html

Membership in the NAQCC is free. Join on-line, at <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/membership.html>

You probably won't get this Keynote before the start of the FISTS Sprint, but since there is a 30 day deadline for getting your logs in,

hopefully it will be in time for your score totals.

Do you have a hamfest coming up? If so, and there is space for handouts, let me know and I'll be happy to send some FISTS brochures or flyers out to you. Just let me know about how many you might need.

I had hoped to have the financial report in this issue, but I ran out of time. Our report was filed with the IRS, but I wanted to break it down into a few more categories so it gives a better idea of what it costs to run FISTS. Did you know that we haven't had a rate increase despite numerous postal increases and paper/printing costs in the last 20 years? I hope to have it together in time for the next Keynote.

Thank you to all who have sent in photos and articles! It makes putting together the Keynote a lot easier. The response was so good that I've got a start on the next issue. If your story/photo didn't make this issue, it should be in the next one. Keep them coming - people really do enjoy reading about your "first QSO" experiences and old time radio stories, war stories (as it relates to ham radio) and homebrewing suggestions and projects. 73 88 33 Nancy Kott WZ8C

Welcome to the New FISTS

FISTS #	Call	First	QTH	Sponsor	FISTS #	Call	First	QTH	Sponsor
13920	AD5TC	James	TX		13963	W5DJA	Don	AD5KV	
13921	KC9GMN	Bob	IL		13964	W3IRS	Ethan	WY3H	
13922	KI4ONJ	Tom	SC		13965	N2FCZ	Henry		
13923	KD8GRX	Clem	OH		13966	N9QU	Leo		
13924	N4AYZ	Dave	AL		13967	KB1QGQ	Leigh		
13925	KE7MWQ	Joseph	UT	AD7HD	13968	N8ZYA	John		
13926	K6ZF	Les	WA		13969	N5OGE	Butch		
13927	N3KCM	Jason	PA		13970	KD0BZT	Dave		
13928	KE5DLZ	Steve	TX		13971	KI6TDZ	Joe		
13929	N0GLQ	Bill	NC		13972	WA5WRE	Jim		
13930	N0JG	Joe	IA		13973	KI2X	Richard		
13931	K8LAR	Blair	MI	KC8ITC	13974	KC9MXQ	Charles	WB2FXK	
13932	W5LFA	Gerald	UT	W7GVE	13975	KI4OWG	Morgan		
13933	KB9MLE	David	IN		13976	WA1WQG	Bruce		
13934	W4GKR	Rich	TX		13977	K1UA	Jay	WZ8C	
13935	WB8BLO	Rick	IL		13978	KD8IIS	Brian		
13936	N3XQL	Tom	PA		13979	N5HEI	John		
13937	N4XE	Willie	VA		13980	WD8LIC	Bob		
13938	W7NDO	Bill	WA		13981	SWL	Beth	WB9FUH	
13939	KN5S	Tom	TN		13982	K4YMB	Cactus		
13940	N4NAB	John	NC	K9SMA	13983	WK3N	Scotty		
13941	WB5GCX	Oscar	OK		13984	W8KM	Gary		
13942	WB8TXW	Donald	OH		13985	KE7UAE	Paul		
13943	KD8FKD	Len	OH		13986	WA2JJX	Caleb	NP4FW	
13944	K6WSC	Bill	CA		13987	W1OH	Geoff	K3WWP	
13945	KI4FJA	Ray	NC		13988	KI4SNS	Doug		
13946	VE5SMC	Sean	SK		13989	W6GWJ	Gary		
13947	VE7GTE	Jan	BC						
13948	KE5MZP	Mark	TX	K5PRT					
13949	W7DMV	Billy	UT	AD7HD					
13951	AB9RZ	John	IN						
13952	VE3RRD	Al	ON						
13953	WB4YXD	Joe	NM	WX5CW					
13954	N7YAH	George	WA	K7GA					
13955	KA3FYX	Bud	PA						
13956	AB2ZI	Kevin	NY	K2TV					
13957	W4EET	Mark	FL						
13958	K6ZQ	Jack	CA						
13959	KB3QVR	Charlie	PA						
13960	K7BUG	John	CA						
13961	W6IJY	Johnny	CA						
13962	W4LZW	A.D.	SC						

CW is Good for the Environment

With the current fashion of being “green, green, green...” we ought to point out that among all the modes used by hams, CW is indisputably the “greenest” - doing the most with the least – power or equipment.

73, Hans, AE9G, #10781

The JARC Hamfest in Minnesota

The Hamfest was held on August 22 & 23. We sold about 750 tickets, had about 150 tables rented, and had about a dozen Commercial vendors. On Friday evening there was a brats or hamburger cook-out that was very well attended.



The FISTS material was held until Saturday and put on a table in the entrance hall along with other hand out materials. My ticket sales booth was within viewing range and I could see the materials depart very quickly. We thank you for your supplying us with them and hope that you will realize some new memberships from it.

73 and thanks for the hard work and dedication you do for FISTS. Mac McNally/W9NLA Fists #3610

Honest, Officer, I didn't know!

My wife Janet and my 13 year old daughter Cody Anne stopped by an antique store in North Texas a few months ago. I've been married for almost 30 years and my wife has been very supportive of my hobby, so she asked the store owner if he had any Morse "keyers" in the shop. The owner said; "You mean the kind that you push up and down?" My wife said yes, and the store owner replied that he didn't have any. He then stated that he did recently have one of those "keyers" that you push from side to side. He then leaned over and in a conspiratorial tone of voice said, "They're illegal you know." My wife didn't know what to say as the owner was serious about the claim. It was all she and my daughter could do to keep from laughing. So the next time you sit down at the rig

and start sending with your bug or paddle, just remember that you may be breaking the law, at least in the mind of one antique shop owner. 73 de Jim KA0IQT

Terry W1QF/2 Agrees With WD8DIN ...and says Down with Instant "Success"

Hi Nancy,

I met you at the Utica club's Hamfest in 1999, when I was KI8JA- you talked me into buying a CW mug AND tee-shirt (which I still have, and wear to the local Races meetings, to remind them that 2m talkies aren't the entire world...)

Anyway, I want to jump on MY soap box too. I just read WD8DIN's "Fractured CW" article, and I know what he means! Sadly, the rot goes much deeper than that. Now that we have "Codeless Wonders" in our midst, there is a growing class of Extras (yes, really!) who have legal access to the lower 50 kHz. They use keyboards and code readers, and have "ragchews" at a stately 20 wpm to PROVE themselves (else, why bother?). They are easily smoked out: who in the world uses periods and commas, and omigosh semicolons?

It's fun to jump on the freq when they're done, and call them. They won't answer unless you're keyboarding too! "SRI OM comma NO COPY period" You could be 20 over 9, but still: "NO COPY"

For Shame, For Shame, For Shame! They disgust me. Welcome to the land of Instant Success!

73 es 88 de Terry W1QF/2

Nancy,

I have been in ham radio for slightly over 50 years. The photo issue struck me as showing a bunch of "old folks".

~~But upon reflection it also shows a group of connected gals and guys, who in a pinch could handle most of the communication needs for ole USA!~~

Dennis W B9EM D #11312

Dit Dit

By Charlie Trice, K8IJ

At the end of nearly every QSO you'll hear an exchange of "dit dit". Did you ever think about what that means? I bothered a few of my friends to get their thoughts on the subject, wandered around reading on the internet and then added some of my own musings to come up with this list about what the simple "dit dit" at the end of our CW QSOs means:

1. "Dit dit" is more than a simple sign-off or the completion of the old "Shave and a haircut..."

2. "Dit dit" is a unifying thing that says, "We are one with our hobby, especially CW".

3. During a contest, if you tell the station that just called you that they are a dupe, their reply is usually a simple "dit dit" meaning, "Sorry – good luck!"

4. "Dit dit" is a salute from one CW operator to another.

5. "Dit dit" is a universal understanding between CW operators. The folks on SSB don't have anything similar.

6. "Dit dit" can mean, "Thanks and 73".

7. "Dit dit" is a private exchange between two CW operators who know the lore and history of amateur radio. It's similar to knowing the difference between

"73" and "73's" (only one is correct...) or knowing when to use SK or AR.

If you don't get a thrill out of running contacts in a CW contest, making two or three QSOs per minute, then I hope you reach that point soon.

I absolutely LOVE CW, and it's hard for me to explain to non-CW folks like my XYL. She's just happy that I'm doing something I love to do – she's wonderful!

I'd really like to expand this list with your input on what "dit dit" means to you. Please think about it as you tune the bands and then drop me a note with your thoughts. 73, Charlie, K8IJ
k8ij@arrl.net

Look for Bob and Norma on the Air

My wife Norma, KD7FLP, is two years younger than me at age 84 (I'm 86).

But due to quite a bit of illness of late, we have not been able to enjoy being on the air much with our friends in Amateur Radio.

We are feeling better now and are anxious to get back on the air as soon as possible. I'm a life member of ARRL and QCWA, but I like the FISTS CW Club best.

Thank you and 73, Bob
WA6EUH # 9311

Hope to hear you and Norma on the air again soon, Bob! (WZ8C)

KC2MJT
Nathan L. Hunk
81 Old Town Road
Hart, New York 12072-4633
USA
EQ ZONE 5 - CHIL PERA
Gee !!!
I Wish
I
were a
Ham
I'd Join
Fists
Be a real Ham
Know the Code!
Confirming QSO with: DD.MM.YYYY HHMM
Freq./Mode: RST
QSL
RST

I thought this was the cutest QSL I've seen in a long time. It's from Nathan, #12044, KC2MJT. Very clever, Nathan!

Fun in the Park with CW

Had a fun experience today, out in the park, in the San Fernando valley, with my QRP, FT-817 and Super Antenna, MP-1.

I belong to a FM Repeater organization here in Southern Cal, called PAPA System. We have Several hundred members, and 14 analog mountain top repeaters, all linked along with a bunch of new "D" Star digital repeaters. Most of the members are "newbies", who just got their license's and some of the members are "old timers", like myself.



A few of us old timers were asked to demonstrate HF and CW, for the "newbies", so, they might try to expand their horizons. Naturally, I setup my CW/QRP station, today, in the park, after our monthly breakfast meeting.



Here is a picture of me, wearing my Fists T-Shirt, and my buddy, W6VX, operating the CW station to attract some new comers to HF and maybe CW. That's the MP-1, behind Rich's head.

73, Bill, K6MGO

Hams To Operate For Public

In Vacant Store Window in Downtown Portsmouth John Abbott, George Hartsell and Bill Rose Will Demonstrate Hobby.

Hams To Show How They Operate

PORTSMOUTH — Members of the Lake Drummond Wireless Association will show the public tomorrow how hams operate.

Equipment has been set up in the empty store window at 232 High St. as a part of the Downtown Portsmouth Association's hobby project. The Downtown Association is sponsoring a showing of hobbies in empty store windows along lower High Street as a public service.

Tom Barnard, president of the Lake Drummond Wireless Association, said members of the organization would be on duty in the window tomorrow to show how messages are transmitted and received between amateur wireless operators.

The association with 25 members is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. Although it is strictly a hobby, the men are pressed into service at times by Civil Defense to operate its communications system.

It is no problem to communicate with Little America, Barnard said, and members of his organization oftentimes relay messages to Navy personnel there for the men's families here.

Many of the members have their automobiles equipped with wireless and carry their call letters on their auto license plates.

The call letters of the association are W4HXN. Call letters have been exchanged with other hams throughout the world and many of the cards are exhibited in the association's display at 232 High St.

Membership in the association

is open to any interested ham operators, Barnard said. The club meets the first and third Saturday nights at the Norfolk County Civil Defense headquarters at Deep Creek.

George Hartsell, W4GEO #2667, shares this story and a photo taken in a store front for Field Day in 1958. He was a member of the Lake Drummond club in Deep Creek Va. George is the good-lookin' guy in the back.



My New Old Hobby

By Mike WB2KKI, #12468

When I was a novice many moons ago way back in the 60's I started my long ham interest on 2 meter AM. That alone should date me. My call was WN2SUH At that time as most of you remember, the novice was a one time deal that lasted only a year.

With that in mind I got off 2 meters and picked up an Eico 720 transmitter from Harrison Radio on Courtland street in NYC known as radio row. For a receiver I used a borrowed BC342-N Navy receiver. I lugged it on the Flatbush Ave. bus in Brooklyn, NY. They meant it when they said boat anchor. Anyway, spent my remaining novice days on 40 meter CW. Took my general and failed it a couple of times and gave up for a while.

A few years later I ran into a guy at my first job who gave me my Technician test during lunch. At that time 2 meter AM was gone and replaced by repeaters and that was not my bag. So, for a little while I was a ham but was not active.

I then decided to try for my general again and got it right that time. I worked for a 2 way radio company with a TV - CB store up front and got a very shiny D 104 mike and for a few weeks CQ'ed my brains out on 20 meter SSB.

Wasn't as much fun as I imagined and switched back to CW and been there ever since. I later got my advanced and Extra and was pounding away. Would only work DX as I always felt CW was too much work to just rag chew.

THEN, the sun went out and I found qso's were few and far between. I was losing interest again and was also afraid of TVI problems having moved to the country. So again air time was limited to weekend daytime or vacation and never on prime time or evening.

So, here began my new ham radio life. With FISTS and similar type clubs chasing numbers and rag chewing. I also switched to QRP (8 watts) at night so no TVI worries and working a bunch of stations and even some DX.

I have also gotten into vintage gear. Picked up a Collins KWM-2 (only took 42 years) and even got an Eico 720 transmitter similar to the one I had as a novice. I use a Heathkit SB301 receiver with it. I'm looking for a Collins receiver and will sell the Heath.

My paddle that I used many years has been put aside and I now use a Vibroplex straight key. I learned to use an original bug, and for the vintage gear a Vibroplex champion bug circa 1950's. I'm having more fun than ever on ham radio. Thank you FISTS and all those of you that I have enjoyed qsoing with. de Mike WB2KKI

Operating KN0WCW

Did you know that FISTS in the USA can operate from their homes using our National Club Call KN0WCW? All you need is permission from trustee Karl and you can experience the pile-ups and the fun of being a rare sought-after entity on the air!

Contact Karl at HMC FMF_Karl@peoplepc.com or write, including your phone number to: FISTS Club Call c/o Karl Zuege, KB1DSB 2176 Drake Road Bomoseen, VT, 05732

He will be happy to send you the necessary paperwork, and put you on the schedule. ***You CANNOT operate as KN0WCW without Karl's permission.***

Achievement awards are available for operators of KN0WCW as well as for those who contact the station. See our web page for details (<http://www.fists.org>).

One question that keeps popping up is whether a contact can also be counted with the callsign of the operator of KN0WCW.

This depends on the QSO. If you have a QSO where you just exchange callsigns and signal reports with KN0WCW, you CANNOT claim a separate contact with the operator. However, if you complete the KN0WCW QSO and make another legal QSO with the operator then using his personal call and you can count both as separate contacts, and points.

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

FINALLY! A few spots are starting to appear on the face of the sun. It's about time... Hopefully we will come back from this very dry spell we've been having. I know I haven't been getting on the air as much as I used to. The awards have been trickling in here and there all through the summer months. Nice sunny days produce weekends that get spent with family and friends instead of playing on the radio. I'm sure award applications will pick up once the days get a little cooler and "old sol" gets back on the job to produce better propagation.

I've noticed a few award logs coming for the Silver, Gold, and Diamond with separate "Dupe Sheets", one for the Century section of the log another Dupe Sheet for the remaining points for the Silver section, etc., etc. Please remember, if you are applying for the Silver, Gold, or Diamond, submit ONLY ONE Dupe Sheet for the entire log. Award logs with multiple Dupe Sheets for different sections of the log will be returned unprocessed. It is much too difficult to try and cross reference numbers from several Dupe Sheets.

You may use the following e-mail address, (Fistsawards@comcast.net) for sending in your award logs. Excel, Word, Open Office, 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 will delay receiving your award. 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 me atfistsawards@comcast.net Keep banging the brass ... C U on the bands ... 73, Dennis K6DF

AWARDS ISSUED – 3/18/08 thru 9/24/08

Basic Century (CC) WAS Award

AJ4SF KD0V
G3ZNR KD6DKC
K5EWJ KE5HL
K7JBQ WB0RMK
K9GA

RCC Award

KK5NA G4LHI
KM4DB
KR8F
N1PQ
N2YHQ
N7BO
N7KM

1 X QRP Award

G3ZNR
KK5NA
2 X QRP Award
KD0V

Silver Century Millionaire

KM4DB G4ZPI
OK1KW K5ECI
W1XH KG0IT
W4UCZ VK4TJ
W1XH

Gold Award

AD7JY 2 Million
KF4YP K5ECI
KK0I W4UCZ
VE1RO 3 Million
VK4TJ AB1BW
WB8CAC G4LHI
N2UC

Diamond Award

AD7HD 5 Million
K8EIG AD7JY
KU8T K8IJ 10 Million
VE3HUR KK0I K4IA
6 Million VE3HUR 11 & 12 Million
W5GXV

Platinum Award

KC2EE VE2PID 18 & 19 Million
W7GVE
KM4DB N3RSD 20 & 21 Million

Platinum 250 Award

AD7JY 8 Million KC0JKD
KF4YP WB2MIC W7GVE
9 Million 22 & 23 Million
K4UK KC0JKD

Elecraft K1 Building

by Ron Pearson W5RCP , #11025

A few years ago I made a big mistake. I sold my beloved Elecraft K1 with internal ATU, 6 bands and battery pack to buy a Yeasu FT-817. Now, that's not to say the FT-817 is not a good radio, because it is. It's just not for me. Since I only communicate using CW and the FT-817 is a multi-band, multi-mode rig it was simply more than I needed. I sure missed that little K1 with it's straight forward operation.

When I found out that my friend, Craig Nxxx, a fellow member of the Houston QRP club (FISTS#11025) had won an Elecraft K1 kit and had no intention of building it I moved in. Craig was happy to sell the kit at a really great price, with one stipulation; if I ever decided to sell it he would have first choice and at the same price he sold it to me. DEAL!

I was excited to find that not only had I gotten this great kit, but it was the four band model to boot. I waited a few months to build the K1. I wanted to get a few other projects behind me before settling down to devote my undivided attention to putting this thing together. Once I finished up some commitments, like moving to a small Texas town with a population of seventy-five people after living in Houston for over thirty years I was ready to begin.

The K1 kit is probably not the best place to start if you've never experienced using hand tools or soldering in tight places. I have built a few kits and have been repairing and restoring transistor radios of the 1960's era so I felt confident that I could jump right in and slap this baby together. That was my second mistake.

I built the four band filter board for my previous K1 so building the filter board for this rig went well. It took a couple of evenings to get the filter board finished and set aside, mostly because of the toroids that had to be wound.

The K1 is small and easy to operate, but it is also a sophisticated piece of twenty-first century technologies and is not to be "slapped" together. I had several components soldered to the front panel board before I realized I had the board reversed.

I had soldered the parts to the bottom instead of the top. One of them was the socket that holds the forty pin MCU and another was the twenty pin connector that brings the front panel board and the RF board together. There was no way to unsolder them.

There's a fine line between confidence and cockiness and I apparently crossed that line. With hat-in-hand I ordered a new FP board as well as the parts that I couldn't salvage from the FP board disaster.

It's been said many times but I want to say it again; Elecraft is a wonderful company to deal with. If they ever decide to build cars, watch out Ford and GM.

My parts arrived a few days after I ordered them and this time I began to build with the manual in hand.

Each piece of the kit has a corresponding paragraph of instruction to go with it. It is imperative that you read the entire paragraph before you solder the component to the board. I say this because I found a few of the directions to be a bit confusing.

One case in point is when installing two TO-220 package transistors which look exactly alike. The book says: *TO-220 package transistors Q6 and Q7 look identical, but are different types. Locate the 2SC1969 (labeled "C1969"), Q7 and set it aside. The 2SC2166 transistor, Q6 ("C2166") will be installed first.*

I would have preferred it said, install Q6 transistor 2SC2166 first, then Q7 2SC1969. Over all though, the instruction are good and get the job done.



I finished the front panel board and also the receiver portion of the RF board. It was time for the first check and alignment.

I turned the rig on and it failed miserably. Instead of the scanning/self test that was supposed to happen the ATTN light came on and that's as far as it got. I contacted Gary at Elecraft support.

Gary told me that the most often reported problems that builds face is because of bad solder joints. The people on the Elecraft forum concurred. Now, I admit that I messed up the FP board by not paying attention, but I was not going to cash in all my chips and blame the malfunction on bad soldering.

Fortunately the kit has a very good schematic and by using it and a DMM I found that the MCU chip was bad. Once I ran all the tests Gary got them to send me a new IC which I installed and the radio came to life.

Another few hours to finish the transmitter portion as well as the alignments (fortunately for me I have a pretty good bench with signal generator, frequency counter and oscilloscope) and I was ready to put the new K1 on the air.

If was only fitting that I head up to 7058 to make my first contact. Larry *K8TEZ* FISTS nr 9709 gave me a 5-7-9 before he even knew I was running QRP. Texas to Ohio on the first try... not bad with no sunspots and five watts to a wire antenna!

I can't say the Elecraft K1 went together flawlessly, but I can say that things would have gone a lot smoother had I paid closer attention in the first place. A good lesson learned should I decide to go for a K2. As for the few problems I had, Elecrafts help tech Gary Searcy stayed with me through the whole process.

This week I ordered the Elecraft T-1 external ATU kit and also the K1 internal noise blanker kit. What the heck... I'm kinda getting' addicted to solder smoke.

First QSO Story from Jack Wooldridge WA6FYD #12606

I like the feature "First QSO Stories". At age 79 and being a ham nearly 50 years I have quite a few stories, but only one First QSO, so here's mine:

My first QSO occurred in 1949 in New Jersey. Fact is this QSO predates my first official QSO. I was not even a licensed ham at the time! But wait, don't accuse me of being illegal. After you hear my reason, I'm sure you will forgive me. I was stationed at Ft Monmouth, NJ and spent many months practicing to be a High Speed Morse operator. This entailed 8 hours a day of listening to tapes, wearing heavy "can" type headphones. As an Extra Class legal ham I now appreciate very much that constant drilling until code was a reflex action.

After we were accustomed to copying code, members who were already selected for the Army Security Agency knew that they would not be sending code, only listening in to intercept and copy other nation's communications.

However, the training did include a class where we buddied up and practiced sending/receiving. We had some small oscillators and did short distance sending. I don't know what frequency I was on but it was while I was out in the quadrangle listening I heard some one sending. The procedure was not in accordance with our training, but I responded and had a quick QSO with a ham from the town nearby; I believe it was Red Bank or Long Branch, NJ.

Twenty years later, I got my legal ham call and have been enjoying Ham Radio ever since. Emacs!



WA6FYD
Jack Wooldridge

Are You a Mass. Maritime Academy Graduate?

Al Sirois, N1MHC, # 1272, is a retired Chief Instrument Engineer who worked at Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Wescasset, Maine. While he was at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, he learned the Flashing Light communication system at 8 wpm, passed the Coast Guard Exam and received his Third Mates License (any tonnage, any waters). He lives in Boothbay, Maine and would like to organize a Massachusetts Maritime Academy Radio Net on 40, 20 or 80 meters.

If any FISTS members attended the MMA, please contact Al. He says he knows of MMA grads living in England Argentina, Washington, Texas, Japan, Massachusetts, Maine, New York, Norway and Germany. His email address is N1MHC@gwi.net.

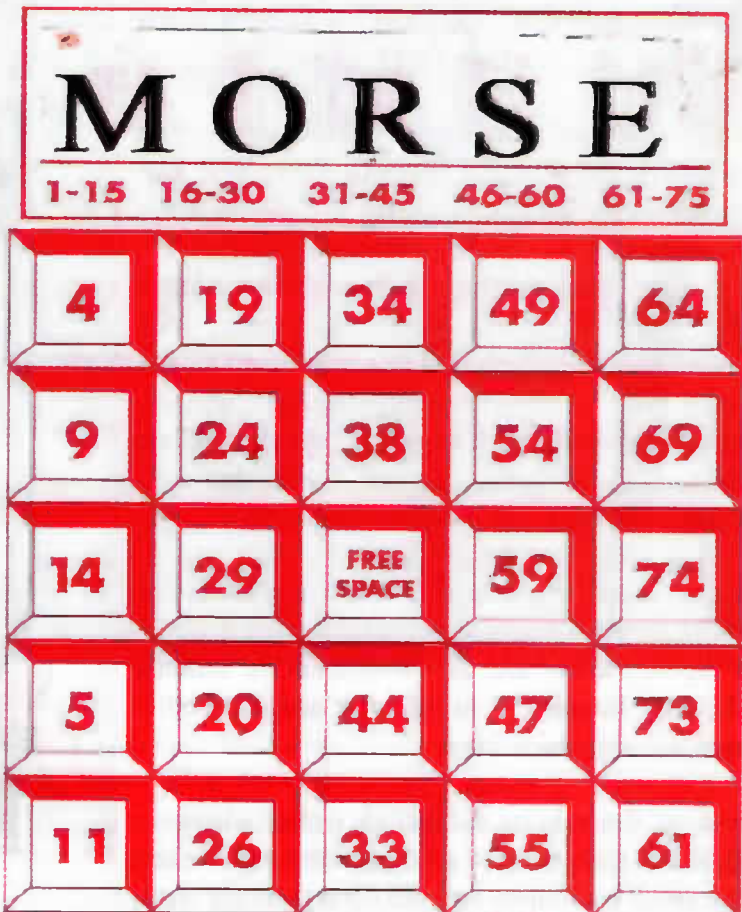
Morse Bingo! Fun Idea for Club Meetings

from Gene W5SXW #11849

As you can see, this is a regular Bingo card. Bingo cards can be used for CW training and fun at club meetings, hamfests, code classes, etc.

Letters and numbers are sent in Morse code instead of normal calling. After a short pause, they can be called out (if desired).

The word "Bingo" was at the top of the cards, but we modified it with a label over the word "Bingo" to read "Morse". This heading can be changed to teach new letters.



More Morse on the Sci-Fi TV Shows

In Twilight Zone episode #51 (The Invaders), the space "aliens" use CW to communicate.

The code is at very high speed, but when slowed back down sounds like bug sending.

Content is mostly random characters, with one snippet of clear text. de KA5NNG, Mike, # 11484.

Mike, K8XF, # 6773, writes that he recently saw an episode of the Munsters where Herman gets a Ham License.

His call was W6XRL4...What a whacky call? And that was back in 1966.....

His station was set up in the basement in Grandpa's lab. It was a poor demonstration of a bad script. When will TV ever get it correct when they write a story about Ham Radio?



(A version of this was printed in the October 2008 issue of WorldRadio Magazine)

The installation of a ham station in the sands of Iraq in the midst of a major war is impossible you might think! Impossible? No way! I've learned a long time ago that if there's a will, there's definitely a way. Although my primary concern was the safety and welfare of my Soldiers in a combat environment, I was very excited at the idea of getting on the air as a "YI9" and finally being on the opposite end of a DX pileup!

It has been an incredible journey as an Amateur Radio Operator. I was introduced to Amateur Radio as a Radio Operator in the Army. I can honestly say that had it not been for the Army, I probably wouldn't be writing this article today! I've met a lot of good people and made many friends in the last 12 years that I've been operating. Morse Code has just made it all the better. It is, in my opinion, the true essence that makes this hobby great. As a Soldier, the hobby has made my job in the Army Signal Corps all the more easier to understand. I am proud to serve this great nation; never will I take it for granted.

During the spring/summer of 2004, my unit received orders to deploy to Iraq in support of the global war on terrorism. The training and preparation that followed was rigorous and arduous at best. Quality time spent with family and friends was of the utmost importance. But in the midst of all the preparation for the upcoming deployment, I thought to myself how neat it would be to take along an HF radio and conduct my own little "DXpedition"! About three months prior to shipping off to the "sandbox", I contacted the ARRL to get a point of contact in order to obtain a YI call sign. The procedure was rather simple and within two months of my request, I received an Iraqi license (which was good for five years) with the call sign YI9IZE. To my surprise, I was able to retain my stateside suf-

fix. (I've always thought that the "IZE" made for an easy suffix when sending code!).

On November 30, 2004, with my Yaesu FT-857D and J-38 straight key in hand, I shipped off across the "great big pond", destination: Iraq. Seventeen hours later, we landed in the Republic of Kuwait for a two-week training period before we would "cross the berm" into Iraq. During these two weeks, we were taught basic vehicle convoy procedures, advanced marksmanship, and attempted to stay somewhat physically fit in the vastness of sand. I didn't take along a power supply due to the lack of space, but I'd take out my FT-857D from time to time and simply "gloomed" at it just thinking of the moment when I'd be able to transmit CW and start making some contacts.

Finally, the time came to "take to the streets" and after conducting the 3-day convoy into Iraq, we settled down at Logistic Support Area Anaconda, as this would be our "home" for the next 12 months. I had packed away plenty of wire, coax, and even brought along my trusty SWR/Power meter. All I needed now was a power source for the radio. After some inquiring, I acquired two heavy-duty MILSPEC 12V batteries from the Motor Sergeant and then threw up a homebrewed 20-meter dipole. I was in business! It was on December 25, 2004 that I sent some long-awaited RF energy out into the ionosphere and the "flood gates opened"! Once I transmitted "CQ, CQ, this is YI9IZE, over", the next thing I heard can be described as a "blur" of stations hoping to get the chance at working Iraq. Although I operated both CW and SSB, it was the CW mode that I found to be most relaxing and enjoyable. Most of my contacts took place to the west across Europe and to the east into Asia and India. My most interesting contact was with fellow FIST member Alf, G3UAA, #5519 on April 26, 2005.

I usually found "down time" (if you want to call it that) in the early to late afternoon hours after I made all my rounds to different communication sites that I was in charge of. I had operated four different radios during the course of my first deployment in

Iraq consisting of the FT-857D, an FT-101ZD, an FT-817ND, and the venerable Drake TR-3. I must admit, I do tend to favor the older vintage gear! Believe it not, the latter three made the trip to Iraq from stateside in good fashion! The ham station was definitely a conversation starter and "wowed" many visitors to my site. As for antennas, my intent was to configure 20 and 17 meter flattop dipoles that would radiate broadside east and west to the good ole' US of A! My efforts paid off as I was fortunate to have made several stateside contacts. It was in-

deed exciting to be on the opposite end of a DX pileup!

Well, it is clear to see that in between all the roadside bombs and incoming mortar rounds that I've encountered, there was still time to enjoy my favorite past time. As a Soldier, I want to say a special "Thank You" to all who support the military and, of course, to the FISTS CW Club and its efforts. Remember, freedom isn't free, but you can always find some free time to send CW!



*Willie (in the center)
with some friends in Iraq*

QRP With K3WWP

Column #85 by John, K3WWP

In a QSO with Gary N2ESE, he mentioned that he had just visited my web site and was delighted to find all my past Keynote QRP columns posted there. That got me to thinking that I haven't mentioned that for quite a while. For the newer FISTS members who haven't read all my columns, and may be interested in doing so, all my past columns from #1. I try to keep the most recent 2 or 3 columns exclusive to the Keynote for a couple months before posting them on the web site.

I believe one main reason folks

Page 16

are re-discovering CW is that it is now somewhat of a "forbidden fruit" after the ARRL and FCC turned their backs on the mode. And we all know that forbidden things seem to attract the most attention in our society today. But that's getting off on another path.

With the large number of new FISTS reading my column for the first time, I think I should point out some of the other features of my web site. First of all it is devoted strictly to promoting CW use on the bands, but with a twist in that I promote CW at QRP power levels with simple wire antennas and point out in many ways how those three things work

so well together.

My web site is divided into sections and then pages within those sections. That makes for easy navigation around the site via a navigation toolbar at the left side on all but a few pages.

Let me briefly describe each section and how it may be of interest to you. The Main section is pretty much an intro to the site and also contains a poll question about CW/QRP matters, my guestbook, station pictures, my web Diary, FAQ's, and a complete site index. The diary has become a very popular feature since its introduction a couple years ago. I often

venture into other topics besides ham radio, but that seems to add to the popularity. My polls have been popular since day 1 of their inception. I recently posted #100 in the series. Also found here is a listing of the last 10 days of my streak of making at least one QRP/CW QSO every day. The streak is now over 5,000 days (as described in my column a couple issues ago) and still going strong.

The Awards section is not there for bragging, but to show what can be done using CW, QRP, and minimal wire antennas. This has encouraged many to give such a setup a try just to see if it would be possible for them also. They quickly found in most cases, it indeed was, and they are now enjoying ham radio a second time around - as a CW/QRP op.

The Contesting section is not for everyone as not everyone is for contesting, but for those who do enjoy this fascinating aspect of hamming, there are several helpful features here. First a calendar featuring only contests that include the CW mode. You won't find any SSB, RTTY, PSK, etc. contests here. There are tips for contesting with QRP gleaned from my own personal experiences in some 800 contests over the years plus some comments from other QRP testers. Like the Awards section, a list of my results over the years shows what can be done with QRP/CW and simple wire antennas.

My site was originally conceived

as a county hunting site, but quickly outgrew that as my interest in county hunting declined. Still a County Hunting section describes how WA8EOH and I founded the CW County Hunters Net and CW County Hunters Contest back in the mid-1960s.

The CW section contains a mish-mash of things CW. Here is where you will find all the past issues of this column mentioned above as well as a bit more about FISTS. Briefly, pages on CW procedures and abbreviations, a zero beat circuit, CW stories, and using a straight key can be found here. I particularly like the stories page because it contains testimonials from teen-agers explaining why and how much they like to operate CW. Please if you know a teen-age ham, have them read these stories. They just may turn him/her on to CW.

The DX section contains a QSL address lookup that is among the tops on the Internet according to many who use it, and the many sites that link to it with favorable comments. Also here are my DX QSL collection picturing one card from each of the 199 countries (entities) I have confirmed, tips on working DX with QRP and then getting DX QSL's after you work them, buro info, and links to DX spots although I don't believe in or use them myself.

The Homebrewing section contains just what it says - info on my homebrewing experiences with accompanying pictures. I

often get asked about my antennas - here is where all the info on them can be found.

Every site seems to have a Links section - mine does too.

My Logs sections gives access to a brief listing of every QRP QSO I've ever made - almost 50,000 of them.

The Propagation section gives a brief account of recent propagation conditions via tables and charts plus a simple overview of what propagation is all about.

The QRP section details the streak, has a listing of most of the current QRP rigs with links to info on them plus personal reviews of a few by me and my site visitors, and also contains other info such as QRP frequencies and some of my yearly QRP stats.

We're approaching the end now. My QSLing section has the same QSL address lookup as the DX section, plus some stats on my QSLing percentages of return over the years for various means of QSLing.

Finally my Visitors List section contains a list of most everyone who has visited the site over the years gleaned from guestbook signings, emails, etc.

Whew, that's a lot. Come see my site at <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/> and experience it for yourself if you haven't done so. 73 de John, K3WWP



FISTS DOWN UNDER

Newsletter – October 2008



Editor & QSL Manager for ZL: **Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX**, P.O. Box 15078, Otaki Railway, Otaki 5543, New Zealand. Tel: 06-364-6339

Newsletter Distribution & QSL Manager for VK: **Chris Thompson, VK2CTN**, P O Box 178, Wellington, New South Wales 2820, Australia. Mobile Tel: 0407-249-474

Membership/Awards Liaison: **Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH**, 12c Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6011, New Zealand. Tel: 0-4-473-0847 Fax: 0-4-473-0848

QSL Manager for ZL6FF: **Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX** at address above.

QSL Manager for VK2FDU: **Chris Thompson VK2CTN** at address above

Address e-mails for all the above persons to: [<fists-down-under@ihug.co.nz>](mailto:fists-down-under@ihug.co.nz)

Web site – [<http://www.fistsdownunder.org>](http://www.fistsdownunder.org)



SUGGESTED FISTS CLUB H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

1.808 MHz (160m) – 3.528 MHz (80m) – 7.028 MHz (40m) – 10.118 MHz (30m) -
14.058 MHz (20m) - 18.085 MHz (17m) – 21.058 MHz (15m) – 24.918 MHz (12m) – 28.058 MHz (10m)

Members are reminded that the above frequencies are suggested calling frequencies. If they are busy, it is suggested that once you establish contact with a station, it may be prudent to change frequency down the band, avoiding other calling frequencies of known clubs.

NEW MEMBERS

We have a number of new members to welcome this month all from the state of Victoria.

VK3HJ-Luke Steele #9697 – Luke comes from Benloch - in the Macedon Ranges to the north of Melbourne. In early colonial days, the wealthy citizens of Melbourne used to move to the Macedon Ranges in the summer months, to avoid the extreme heat of the city. The illustration is of Mount Macedon.

VK3BZZ-Kevin Maher #9699, who lives in Bendigo about 90 minutes drive from Melbourne. The city of Bendigo is one of Victoria's largest and most progressive regional municipalities, with a thriving economy, diverse art scene, fabulous restaurants

and cafés, a mild climate and an interesting history dating back to the gold rush era. One unusual tourist attraction is the Bendigo Talking Tram.

VK3DCP-Mike Pain #9699 is from Bulleen a suburb of Melbourne. It is located approximately 12 kilometres from the Central business district.

When we receive personal profiles of these new members, they will be published in a later FISTS Down Under newsletter.

DOWN UNDER MEMBERS' NEWS

When renewing their subscriptions the following member also included a generous donation. **VK6BT - Bob #9611**. Thanks on behalf of all members - these donations are greatly appreciated.

WIA News recently featured an item about the WIA Club Grant Scheme that closed for 2008 in late July. What was of particular interest is that one of the Grant Committee members, is our own **VK3TX-Deane #9664**. The article reported that Deane had previously held a number of other WIA offices. Having spent most of his working life as an academic at Monash University, Deane retired as an associate professor in 2005.

ZL2AIM-Ian #9683 writes: - We moved into our new house at the beginning of August. We had been staying at my daughter's house and now have moved down the valley to our own house.

I have put up a temporary long wire, but we have a lot of noise which I suspect is from the surrounding electric fences as we are in dairy country. Over the next few weeks, I hope to put up a higher long wire and a G5RV. I can do nothing with the neighbouring farmer's fences, but maybe with a bit more height I will be able to simulate the nearly zero noise level that I had further up the valley with the same long wire. (No fences near that shack!)

ZL2AL-Lee-9662 (ARRL DXCC Field Card Checker for Australasia) writes: - I have processed 12 applications from ZLs to date resulting in some upgrades and new DXCCs which is quite brilliant.

I am going through a bit of a quiet time at present, so now is the time to strike!

Get your 100 or so cards together and send them to me. I offer a 24 hour turnaround time and guarantee a grin from ear to ear when you finally see the thing on your wall!!!

Email me and I will send you all the paperwork and forms required. <leejen@paradise.net>

OTHER MEMBERS' NEWS

N1EA-David Ring posted this interesting information on the North American and UK FISTS' reflectors.

"**Bryn N4VM-Bryn #6317** has generously made available hundreds of hours of W1AW code practice mp3 files that you can download and play on your mp3 player or computer. The files are located here: - <www.pcpractice.com/CW/>

They range in speed from 5 to 40 wpm. Text files showing the sent characters are also provided.

They are indexed by speed: 5, 7-1/2, 10, 13, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 wpm as well by date of transmission. There are also two directories 18 and 18 wpm - both of which contain 18 wpm Morse code practice.

Below the directories of the various speeds are directories with dates. These directories (folders) are different files than the one's above and are from an earlier period where perhaps Bryn indexed the files by date instead of by speed. So if you run out of the ones indexed by speed, there are entire W1AW sessions recorded here.

We wish to thank Bryn for the gift to the Morse community on the Internet and here on the CW email list.

Current W1AW mp3 files and text files, showing what was sent are on the ARRL server here: <www.arrl.org/w1aw/morse.html>

ARRL also maintains an archive of these files - and text translations of the Morse : - www.arrl.org/w1aw/morse/Archive/

NZART STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT RULES 2008

Polish and lubricate that old Morse key and enjoy an evening of old time radio fun. This is an activity night in which everyone can be a winner with a certificate to prove it.

When - Sunday 1 November 2008-2300 NZDT.

Band - 80 m (3.5 MHz) only

Mode - CW sent with STRAIGHT KEY i.e. characters formed manually, no system of automatic dots, dashes or spacing permitted.

Divisions : - 1) Vintage QRP 2) Vintage QRO 3) Open QRP, and 4) Open QRO.

Explanation - **Vintage** receivers and transmitters or transceivers using valves, no solid-state devices in the signal line permitted. **QRP**: 5 watts or less RF output.

Exchanges - 1) RST, 2) QTH, 3) Operator's name (one word), 4) Key used (e.g. ZC1, P&T), 5) TX type (eg ZC1, FT1000, homebrew), and 6) TX power (watts) For DX stations (ie non ZL mainland) only RST, operators name, and QTH need be exchanged.

Scoring - ONE Point per QSO. Stations may be worked once, CW to CW only. All stations submitting logs MUST use a straight key throughout, but straight key stations may QSO stations using bugs, electronic keyers or keyboards.

Multipliers - 1) Vintage QRP multiply total points by 2, 2) Open QRP multiply total points by 1.5, 3) Vintage QRO multiply total points by 1.2, and 4) Open QRO multiply total points by 1.

Logs - Suggest using standard NZART log pages (not contest log sheets). Each log QSO entry to show of station worked: 1) Time (NZST or Z), 2) Callsign, 3) RST, 4) QTH, 5) Name, 6). Key type, 7) Tx type, and 8) Tx power.

Calculate total score then multiply by the appropriate multiplier to give total score claimed.

Logs to have associated data sheet giving entrant's 1) Name, 2) Callsign, 3) QTH, 4) Age (optional), Full description of equipment used including: 5) Key, 6) TX/RX, 7) TX power, and 8) Antenna.

Send logs by mail by 30 November to: **Ken McCormack, ZL1AIH, 181 Ararimu Valley Road, R D 2, Waimauku 0882**, or email z1aih@xtra.co.nz

All (including DX stations) who send a log will receive a certificate. Special certificates - to top three in each division. Annotated certificates e.g. Best ZC1, Youngest/oldest op, etc., at manager's discretion. - Any photos of operators and/or equipment gratefully received.

Remember that the winners in each division are eligible for FISTS prizes plus a special prize for the top scoring VK station.

FORTHCOMING CONTESTS

11-12 October - Oceania Contests - CW 0800 UTC Sat until 0800 UTC Sun.

1 November - NZART Straight Key Night – see details below

29-30 November - CQWW CW Contest: 0000 UTC Sat until 2359 UTC, Sun.

ZL1BHQ-John #9625 (NZ Contest Manager) writes - The CQ [WW] Contests are considered to be the premier global contesting activities and a particular test of skill and endurance for the international contesting community. If you need to improve your new countries score - here is the opportunity to do just that. -A great source of working rare countries are specially activated for these contests. - Contest rules and other operating information are at: <<http://www.cqww.com/>>

AUSTRALIA'S FOUNDATION CLASS OF LICENCE – John Kirk, VK4TJ

...and they shall have four-letter suffixes beginning with "F".

You can hear the ribald comments now, can't you? Get your mind out of the gutter and listen up!

Australia's "Foundation Licence" came into being in late 2005. Since its inception, over 2,000 new hams have entered the hobby, reversing a downward spiral in numbers that began around 1990 that would have had no new [net] ham licences by about 2010. It is patterned after the UK's Foundation Licence, established in 2002, which has seen total ham numbers surpass the previous peak achieved about 1992.

Really, FDU's own Jim Linton VK3PC ought to be writing this, as it was a seminal paper by Jim and Roger Harrison VK2ZRH "Amateur Radio and the Challenge of Change", published in 2003 that got us off our collective backsides to make the Foundation Licence happen.

Salient features of the new licence:

- It can be achieved in just one weekend of study
- It offers limited privileges (80/40/15/10/2Metres plus 70 cms) limited power (10 watts), and limited modes (phone and hand-sent CW only)
- The curriculum stresses operating practices over radio theory
- A big part of the exam is about **doing** – cabling a typical station, making on-air contacts, troubleshooting a duff patch cable – you get the idea...

But are they real hams, or glorified CB'ers?

They are real hams. This has truly been laid to rest. Curiously, quite a number of them were issued "personals" instead of names at birth, but there is hardly a club in Australia that does not have one or more "F Troopers" on the executive now. They front up for public service events, climb the tower at the repeater site, run interesting meetings, and pursue technical excellence in all things radio. In short, all the things the old guard find difficult with a walking frame and an O₂ cylinder. As you might imagine, there was considerable angst from the old guard, who had to mine their own silicon for hand-made transistors "in the old days" around these "cereal box" licences, but that has all but disappeared.

Why haven't I worked any?

Because you are a CW operator, that is why. They tend not to embrace CW, particularly with the restrictions against keyers and keyboards. Dial up the phone segments of 80 or 40 metres during prime time and you will hear dozens of them running nets, engaging in technical discussions or gasbagging about the weather and the state of their hip joints. Hey, they sound just like us!

Do they ever become "real" hams?

Meaning...do they upgrade? In a word, yes. Whilst there is no legislated requirement to upgrade, the restrictive licence is intended to feel a bit confining after the initial euphoria wears off. Although I do not have the stats, the Wireless Institute of Australia is doing a land office business in "Standard" and "Advanced" exam kits, and Ron (VK2DQ) at the Radio Electronic School is shipping more upgrade study CDs than he ever did prior to the introduction of the Foundation Licence.

So, next time you hear a call sign that seems to be "rather a mouth full", give them a call – they'll be thrilled to know just how far their 10 watts can reach.

MORE WEB SITE ADDRESSES OF INTEREST

Junk Fair - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGKgTw6bg4o&NR=1>

Morse Code Pile Up - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fmv8rubB_JE&NR=1

Combined Mode Morse Key - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BTyc0O2rwk>

50 WPM Morse - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_ZEwZzuqW0&feature=related

G3YUH Home Brew Morse Keys - http://www.atdi24.dsl.pipex.com/more_on_morse_keys.htm

THE QSO THAT ALMOST WASN'T

Between
John Kirk, VK4TJ and Jan Oksiuta, VK4EBP

Many of you know first-hand of my obsession for FISTS wallpaper chasing, especially FDU wallpaper, because I have probably badgered you on at least one occasion for a contact. It becomes apparent when pursuing the FDU150 endorsement that the loss of even one contact can cause the whole thing to fall in a heap, given that we only have 140 or so members, some of whom will be between rigs, houses, inactive or unresponsive. So imagine my despondency when my initial contact with Jan, VK4EBP, brought back this response:

"Sorry OM, no working rigs or antennas at the moment".

My heart sank.

Jan continued " ... But I'll build a rig ... and a dipole, from scratch. Give me a week".

A week passes.

"Sorry OM, the output waveform on the rig I built looks like rubbish".

My heart sank anew.

"But if you can send me a crystal, I'll start again".

Some time passes, and the big day arrives – sked time, and ... nothing.

The QRP transmitter Jan has built just hasn't got sufficient mojo to push a signal 130 km uphill to Toowoomba.

My heart sank.

"No worries", Jan replies "I'll build an amplifier – know any good designs?"

A flurry of emails results, and a 15 watt PA based on switching FETS evolves from the lab. Sked day again.

Jan's signal is light, but easy S4 T9 copy in Toowoomba.

Uh-oh. It becomes rapidly apparent that Jan can't hear me! His neighbours, to a man, all run 5KW "inverter" air conditioning systems, the bane of any ham's existence, with S8 hash from DC to daylight.

"No worries", Jan exclaimed. "I'll build a loop antenna, and see if I can null it out!"

A week later, the loop is ready. It nulls out the noise, all right, but is down many dB on transmit as well, so no copy on my end.

"No worries", Jan replied. "I'll build a companion receiver, electronic keyer and antenna matching unit, configure it all to work on battery power, drive to somewhere with a clear shot at you, and operate portable".

True to his word, this was all ready in short order, but before this plan could be put into place, I had to make an unscheduled trip to Brisbane. I made good on an earlier threat to camp on his doorstep with a rig, makeshift dipole and key loaded into the car.

With a massive 5 metre DX path, Jan and I were relieved to give each other 599 signals both ways, and completed the exchanges without difficulty. We should hope so!

FISTS awards, particularly FDU awards, are not for sissies. How many of you can say that you have worked that hard for a QSO? John, VK4TJ



Photos: - Above John VK4TJ/P and Below Jan, VK4EBP - Spy Rig and Purpose Built Magnetic Loop



FISTS DOWN UNDER NET

David Bell, VK3FGE

The start time for the current F.D.U. net will remain a 0900 U.T.C. during the coming daylight savings period, so it will be one hour later by local time. This is far too late for ZL - otherwise, the 80 metre net is doing well.

It is time to introduce a net that will overcome the time difference problem between Australia and New Zealand. That means something during the day. However, the biggest question is: Do members want such a net? If they do, then what day and time would be suitable?

I am therefore asking all interested parties to contact me. Please ring me on AUS(+61) 0 3 5756 2084 (omit first zero from ZL) and, as always, I will ring you back immediately, thus minimising your costs. I know those with email facilities will consider it a bother having to ring, but I ask for your patience and co-operation; after all, it will save time on the keyboard and provide an immediate exchange of thoughts.

I personally feel that for a group of radio hams to be without on-air regular contact is a shame. If you feel that way or if you simply wish to help provide another opportunity for ops to use their radios, then please ring.

73 & Happy Pounding, David VK3FGE

SAVE OUR SOS

An interesting article on the origins of the various distress signals and finally SOS can be found at: -

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/7444184.stm

MORSE CODE TRAINING

To anyone wishing to learn the Morse Code or improve their speed, we recommend the course by Dr Gary Bold, ZL1AN FISTS # 9008. This course is FREE and maybe downloaded from the N.Z.A.R.T. Web Site. Go to: -

www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/exam/morse.html

FISTS DOWN UNDER ARTICLES WANTED

Once again I find that I am running short of articles for the newsletter, and would appreciate anything of interest to members. Any photographs sent by post will be returned as soon as they have been dealt with. If you are sending photographs by e-mail please send them as separate attachments to any article. This means I can play around with them and position them appropriately in the newsletter.

Photographs of Amateur Radio Stations, Old QSL Cards, Members and their families, Morse Keys and old and new equipment of interest are especially wanted. Also articles by members who were once professional W/T operators in the armed services, coast radio stations or merchant marine are desired, with stories and photographs (if possible)

Please send your articles to the Editor at the address in the newsletter header. Thanks Nigel, ZL2TX

FISTS SPRINT ENTRY FORM

Entry Class QRO _____ QRP _____ CLUB _____

SCORING: _____ QSO points X _____ multipliers = _____ final score

CLUB NAME _____

CLUB FISTS Number _____

YOUR NAME _____ CALL _____

YOUR FISTS Number _____

ADDRESS _____

Email Address(optional) _____

----->>>>MULTIPLIER CHECK-OFF LIST<<<<-----											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	VE	DX
CT	NY	DE	AL	AR	CA	AZ	MI	IL	CO	NB	NF/LB
MA	NJ	MD	FL	LA		ID	OH	IN	IA	NS	NT
ME		PA	GA	MS		MT	WV	WI	KS	PE	YK
NH			KY	NM		NV			MN	QC	BC
RI			NC	OK		OR			MO	ON	
VT			SC	TX		UT			NE	MB	
			TN			WA			ND	SK	
			VA			WY			SD	AB	

Please enclose paper logs ONLY, photos, comments, ideas, etc., with your entry and mail promptly to: Dan Shepherd, N8IE
1900 Pittsfield St.
Kettering, Oh 45420.

Statement:"I have observed all FISTS Sprint competition rules as well as all regulations for Amateur Radio in my country. My report is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. I agree to be bound by the decisions of the FISTS Awards Committee."

Date _____ Signature _____ Call _____

COMMENTS:

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.*

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE

PAID

MICHIGAN WEB PRESS
PERMIT #181

PONTIAC, MI 48343

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

**Send in your stories and photos for
The Keynote!**

Don't forget to count N3A/X stations as 5 points in the Fall Sprint