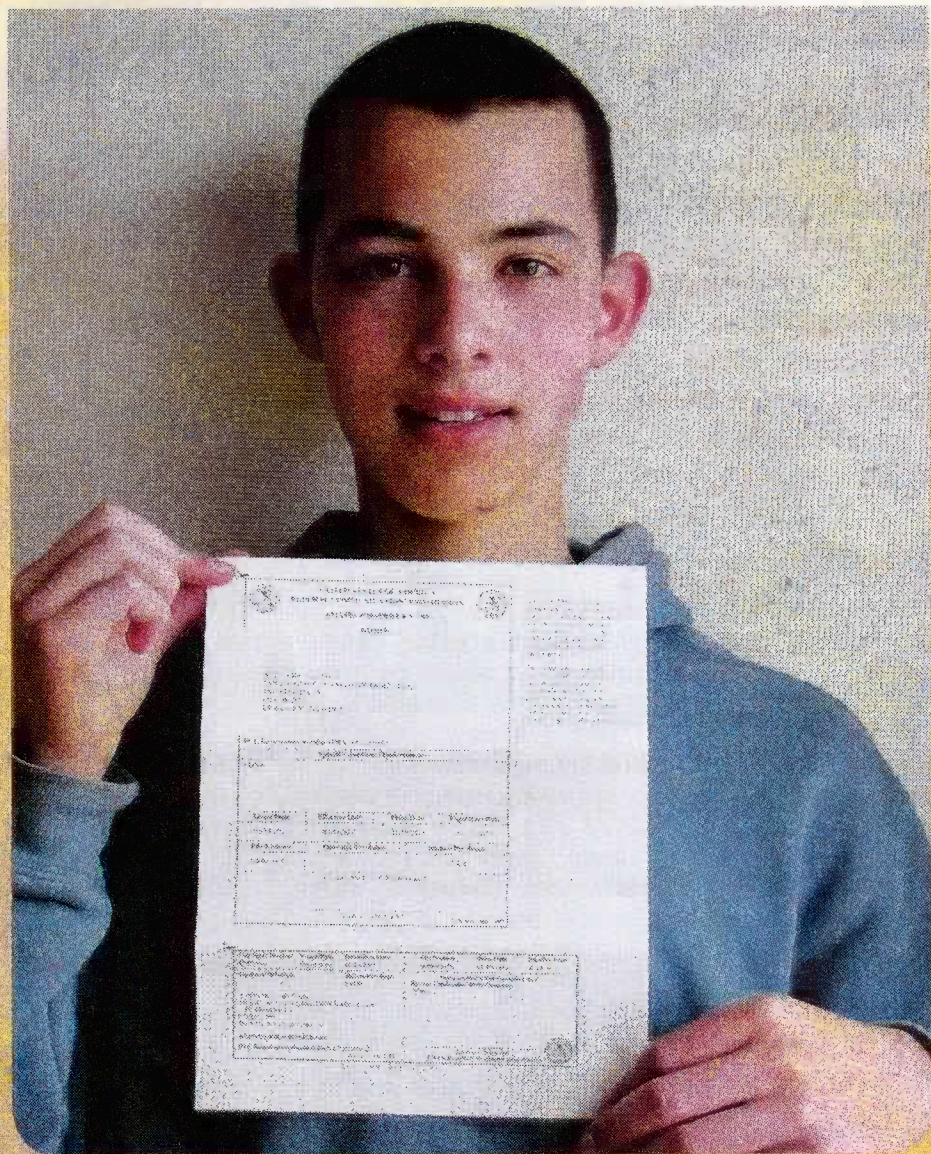


THE KEYNOTE

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club — The International Morse Preservation Society

Issue 4, 2013

Eric, KB3TSO, (FISTS 15433), age 15, is working on establishing an HF station at his high school, The Mount Academy, in Esopus, New York by the fall of 2013. They were granted club license, KD2DJG, for Mount Academy Amateur Radio Club (MAARC). As a club, they will emphasize courteous operating and CW operation. However they have had trouble obtaining the needed equipment. If there are any FISTS who have equipment they are not using, he would appreciate your thoughtful donation to their club. The equipment will make amateur radio and Morse code available for many students. All donations are tax deductible. You can contact Eric at: MAARC@mailstack.com.



Eric is holding the license for KD2DJG, the Mount Academy ARC



"When You've Worked a FIST, You've Worked a Friend"



INFORMATION PAGE

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@gmail.com
4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA 94536

The QSL Bureau contact

Stan Reas, K4UK, k4uk@rev.net
1020 Long Island Drive, Moneta, VA 24121-1952

Our club call KNØWCW contact

Karl Zuege, KB1DSB, kb1dsb@gmail.com:
2176 Drake Road, Bomoseen, VT 05732

The membership roster, call changes, name changes contact

Nancy, WZ8C
PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

To get an **application or sample** Keynote sent to a friend contact

Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, aa9ls@turbotoads.com
33778 Rebecca Road, Kingston, IL 60145

Web page changes, getting your personal or club webpage linked, etc contact

Webmaster Dennis Franklin, K6DF,
fistsawards@gmail.com

Club presentation packets contact

Joe Spencer, KK5NA, kk5na@kk5na.com
3618 Montridge Court, Arlington, TX 76016

Code Buddy volunteers and buddies contact

Nick Yokanovich, K3NY, & The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club,
k3ny@cablespeed.com
108 Brent Road, Arnold, MD 21012

Sprints contact

Ed Wlodarski, N2ED, N2ED@fists.org
3 Shore Road, Andover, NJ 07821-2240

Get Your Feet Wet Weekend /G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest contact

Curtis Gidding KC9UNL, feetwetlogs@fists.org
109-B West Tomaras Avenue, Savoy, IL 61874

Ordering supplies: Irene Kott, WØ8E

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 — check web page or email Nancy, WZ8C at nancy@tir.com.

All other questions, callsign/email/ postal address changes, (NO we do not get this info directly from the FCC!) renewal dates, membership questions and MOST IMPORTANTLY — articles for the Keynote, contact Nancy WZ8C, nancy@tir.com; PO Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440, phone 810-797-2033, fax 810-797-5808.

Please check your label for your renewal month/year — dues are \$15/year. and include award certificates, newsletter and use of the QSL bureau.



"When You've Worked a FIST, You've Worked a Friend"

North American Memo • Issue 4, 2013

Editor: Nancy Kott WZ8C • PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

Email: nancy@tir.com • Phone: 810-797-2033 (leave message if no answer)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Information Page.....	2	Morse Code Operating for Amateur Radio.....	14
Welcome to the New FISTS.....	4	Vibroplex Lightning Bug.....	15
FISTS AWARDS.....	5	Andy Thall, K2OO's, QRP Go-Kit.....	17
QRP with K3WWP — Column #98.....	6	The First Worldwide K7QO Code Course.....	18
School Days.....	8	A Tribute to Bill Welsh, W6DDB.....	19
Recent Morse Code Training Class Is Great Success!.....	11	Proficiency Pins.....	21
The Day The Music Died.....	12	FISTS Sprint Spring 2013.....	22

Hi FISTS,

We have two operating events coming up soon (and the Autum Sprint in October). Log sheets are downloadable from our website <http://www.fists.org>.

Get Your Feet Wet Weekend

This event includes everyone and gives a friendly place to learn the ropes. It will be 0000Z Friday September 13 (Thursday EDT) through 0000Z September 16, 2013. The focus is on sending slowly and clearly and sending the exchange in order. Contacts must be 2-way human-keyed CW (Iambic keys are fine — just no code readers or programmed memory keyers). Certificates will be sent out to the top three scorers in each category.

Operate under one of two categories for the entire event, Newcomer or Experienced. You can be licensed a long time but still be a newcomer to CW or contesting. You're on the honor system: Choose whichever describes your ability. Suggested calling frequencies are 3.558, 7.110, 14.110, 21.110, and 28.110. If you don't hear anyone, go ahead and call. Get your feet wet and jump in with a CQ FC (FISTS Contest) on a clear frequency, YOU are there listening; chances are someone else is listening and waiting to hear a CQ, too. No WARC bands.

Scoring/Exchange: Callsign/N (newcomer) or Callsign/E (experienced), RST, Name, QTH, FISTS number or power, last two digits of the year licensed. Example: WZ8C/E, 599, Nancy, MI, 0379, 88. Count 2 points for working someone out of your category, 1 point for working someone in your category. Multipliers are number of stations that were licensed during the last six years. For example in 2013, it would be stations licensed in 2008-2013. Stations may be worked once per band for points, but their multiplier only counts once.

Log Submissions: All log entries must be received 30 days after the event. All logs MUST contain the following information to be considered for entry: Your name and call sign. Your FISTS number if a member. Entry class. Your claimed score. List of claimed multipliers. ELECTRONIC LOGS: We will accept E-logs in standard, Text, Excel,

ADIF, Word, or ASCII text files. If you're not sure about your format, please contact Curtis KC9UNL before the contest entry deadline. Logs within 30 days to: email (Text, Excel, ADIF, Word, or ASCII format) to feetwetlogs@fists.org. Paper logs: Feet Wet Log, c/o Curtis Gidding KC9UNL, 109-B West Tomaras Ave., Savoy, IL 61874

G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest

The International G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest will be 2300Z September 6 through 2300Z September 8, 2013. Everyone is welcome to participate, but only the logs of those using straight keys for all claimed contacts are eligible for awards.

Operation is limited to 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz amateur bands. No WARC bands. Work stations only once per band. There are three entry classes: QRO, QRP and Club: Entry class MUST be shown on logs to be considered for entry in a particular class, or will be assumed QRO. An entry must be ONE class only, no combination of classes is allowed. CALL: CQ FS (short for fists straight = straight key). Exchange: RST, U.S. state/Canadian province/DXCC country, first name, FISTS number (or power output for non-FISTS).

Scoring: Each U.S. State and Canadian province counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked. Each DXCC entity counts as 1 multiplier. Count each no matter how many times worked.

Each QSO with a FISTS member: 5 points. Each QSO with a non-FISTS member: 2 points. Final score is total QSO points times multipliers.

Logs within 30 days to: email (ADIF, Excel or ASCII format) to g3zqslogs@fists.org or paper logs to KC9UNL. Logs must indicate type of key used.



WELCOME TO THE NEW FISTS

Member Number	Callsign	First	ST	Member Number	Callsign	First	ST
16191	W3SYY	DICK	PA	16342	W5KKC	DAVE	WA
16192	KC2LLP	JOHN	NY	16343	KA0KAF	JEFF	FL
16193	W0HI	NORM	OH	16344	KM9U	CHUCK	IN
16194	AC4PA	PAVEL	GA	16345	WT7D	DAN	AZ
16195	VE3KLX	DAVID	ON	16346	WU5Q	BOB	TX
16196	W2JWP	JACK	VA	16347	N7WY	BOB	WY
16197	KK6BCU	JIM	CA	16348	KD5ZIG	STUART	NM
16198	AG2J	Stephen	NJ	16349	KL3QI	TOM	AK
16199	AB9HT	RAY	IL	16350	NR6L	PRESTON	CA
16300				16351	W1GHF	RICK	AZ
16301	KG7CPR	KENT	WA	16352	N3CK	NICK	MD
16302	KJ8O	JOE	MI	16353	NJ4V	DAN	GA
16303	KC2WXP	TOMMY	NJ	16354	W5QZ	DAVE	TX
16304	N4JSG	JEFF	GA	16355	KC9YUF	GRANT	IN
16305	KJ4CLA	NEIL	FL	16356	KC9RQN	SHELLEY	IN
16306	W0ZPE	BOB	MN	16357	KC9PRJ	CHARLES	IN
16307	W1AWG	MIKE	ME	16358	KC9UEW	TODD	IL
16308	K3OET	DALE	PA	16359	N9XFX	DENNIS	MO
16309	K8ZER	GEORGE	OH	16360	AJ5C	BOB	AR
16310	AA5CO	BRUCE	OK	16361	K4CQF	BOB	SC
16311	KB0KXL	BOB	CO	16362	KC9WXO	ARTHUR	IL
16312	K3XD	DEREK	WA	16363	KC6BIF	DAN	CA
16313	N7JOE	NORM	AZ	16364	WB5BGY	ED	LA
16314	WE5EE	SAM	TX	16365	N7ITE	STEVE	NV
16315	AG6SN	JYRKI	CA	16366	W3PLS	PRESTON	PA
16316	KB1WOD	DAVE	MA	16367	WB6AJX	DOUGLAS	CA
16317	KD8UNJ	BOB	MI	16368	WH7TT	ED	HI
16318	WA9STI	SCOTT	CA	16369	W8CQL	BOB	OH
16319	AA6AE	MIKE	CA	16370	KC9WJK	ROBERT	IL
16320	N2DVD	JOHN	NY	16371	AK4UE	PHILIP	TN
16321	K9DIG	NANCY	ND	16372	KC8FTO	MATTHEW	OH
16322	KC9UPP	DAN	MI	16373	W3ATB	TIM	NH
16323	KQ8M	TIM	OH	16374	KE4RG	KENNETH	VA
16324	KF7GC	TOMY	AZ	16375	K4LCH	LOYD	TN
16325	WA2NYY	MARK	NY	16376	K2ATZ	LARRY	NC
16326	KB1CU	RICK	PA	16377	NG9I	DAMION	IN
16327	W8UJM	ALVIN	OH	16378	N3GWZ	PAT	MD
16328	KF7TDF	DANNY	WY	16379	WA7SSA	NIEL	UT
16329	KE3HL	EDWARD	PA	16380	W4NHO	STEVE	KY
16330	W3TMB	TRAVIS	PA	16381	AE4MT	MARK	VA
16331	VE3OLH	GORDON	ON	16382	NW4G	GEORGE	AL
16332	W3ASW	MIKE	DE	16383	AB4O	JOHN	TN
16333	AE7ZQ	ROCHELLE	OR	16384	WB4OMM	STEVE	FL
16334	WA8UXO	JOHN	MI	16385	KE2YK	GARY	NY
16335	W8XCT	ANDREW	OH	16386	W0CQ	PHIL	GO
16336	W9CP	DAN	IL	16387	N7EH	ERICH	AZ
16337	AE3SS	DAVID	TX	16388	KC6SSE	MIKE	CA
16338	NR3P	PAUL	MD	16389	WA5MA	MARK	OK
16339	WB1DBY	LARRY	MA	16390	W1ACN	DAVE	MA
16340	KD8SMH	GEORGE	OH	16391	KJ6GDN	JEREL	CA
16341	NB0O	ANDY	CA	16392	N1DLS	DAVE	MA

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

The July 1st date issued in a new award called the FISTS Spectrum Award. It is a band specific award meaning that all 100 FISTS contacts must be made on a single band. This award can be earned several times for working the required number of contacts again on different bands.

On June 1st of this year, band endorsements were added to 2 current FISTS awards, Worked All States and Rag Chewers' Award. The endorsements were suggested by FISTS member David Long KB9MLE.

Endorsement stickers for the FISTS Perpetual Prefix Award also started on June 1st. There are 3 endorsements available for 50, 100, and 150 new prefixes Work 5 new prefixes in each numbered call area (0-9) and receive a 50 sticker, 10 in each area for 100, and 15 in each area for the 150 sticker.

For complete details on these and other FISTS awards see the Awards Section of the FISTS website shown below in this column. New award and endorsement details were also included on the inside front cover of the Roster issue of the Keynote (Issue #3).

— You may use the following e-mail address, (awards@fists.org) 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>
Awards are free if your dues are

current. If you are not a FISTS member, or your dues have lapsed, please enclose \$5 to cover the expense of the certificate stock, printing and mailing. 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 at awards@fists.org

Keep banging the brass ... I will C U on the bands.

— 73, Dennis K6DF



FISTS AWARDS ISSUED Mar 25, 2013 To Aug 1, 2013

Century Award	Perpetual Prefix Endorsements
GØRDO	50 - G4MLW
	100 - G4MLW
Silver Award	150 - G4MLW
GØRDO	
	2 & 3 Million Award
Gold Award	GØRDO
GØRDO	
	6 Million Award
Millionaire Award	G4LHI
GØILN	
DL4FDM	
GØRDO	
ZL2AIM	

QRP WITH K3WWP — COLUMN #98

by John Shannon, K3WWP

Just rambling on about QRP and CW with no particular organization or clear flow. A lot of you know about my streak of making at least one QSO per day with QRP/CW/simple wire antennas from my valley location in the heart of Kittanning, PA. I think the streak proves once and for all that CW is an extremely efficient mode that does not require any of the following to work and work well.

No need to run high power — 5 watts does the job just fine — thank you.

No need to put up a tall tower with a many element beam on it — a hunk of wire at least several feet off the ground does the job.

No need to wait for the solar flux to reach a maximum — my streak has lasted through two minimums and one and a half maximums.

No need to work only local stations — you can work the world with 5 watts of CW — I've worked over 215 countries in the streak.

No need to live on a hilltop with an unobstructed view of the horizon — my valley view shows hills up to about 9 degrees or so.

I could go on, but if you hadn't gotten the picture before, you should have it now. The caption is CW/QRP/simple antennas works well.

Finally some stats about the streak from August 5, 1994 through June 30, 2013 — Days: 6,905 — QSOs: 58,883 - DX QSOs: 17,001 — DX entities: 216 — CQ Zones: 36 (of 40) — Different hams worked: 17,217.

If you're one of the stubborn ones who is still not a believer, as I write this I am engaged in another streak as well. For the past 145 days now (as of July 24, 2013), I've made at least one DX (non-W/VE) QSO, and done it easily on virtually every day. Perhaps only on a couple days I've had to work a bit to get the QSO.

Of course now my rig is the fabulous little Elecraft KX3 — by far the best rig I've ever used in 50 years of hamming. It makes ham radio very easy, and the QSOs come very easily. As an additional feature I use a panadapter with the KX3. Just in case you're not familiar with a panadapter, it's basically a computer program or stand-alone unit that shows the activity on a large segment of a ham band at a glance. Mine is the HSDR program running on my shack computer. No more painstaking time-consuming tuning across a band to see what is there. That can also lead to missing a lot of the activity as you tune past stations who just happen to be pausing as you tune past them. With the panadapter, you just

glance at the screen and each 'blip' you see is a station doing something — tuning up, calling CQ, in a QSO. You just turn the dial to center the blip in the passband of the KX3 to see who it is.

The most rewarding thing from the streaks is having other hams tell me that because of the streak and my other QRP/CW activity, they have decided to give ham radio a try from what they thought was a situation in which they could never make even a single QSO. Such as living in an antenna restricted area or being unable to run high power because of local TVI or RFI. Perhaps they tried other modes with no success, and gave up. When they learn what can be done with QRP/CW, they think they should give that a try — they do — and they have the same success that I do. I'm nothing special — I just use something very special — CW with what is perhaps not overly special — QRP and simple antennas. And it works just fine for me and also for those who try it.

Of course there are other things you can do to help make those

“The most rewarding thing from the streaks is having other hams tell me that because of the streak and my other QRP/CW activity, they have decided to give ham radio a try”


QSOs easier. Always send the very best code possible. Stations, especially DX and contest stations who get pile-ups say a weaker signal with perfect code is easier to copy than stronger signals with sloppy code. Always use proper procedure signals. Always keep CQs short and repeat them often with only a short pause to listen for answers. Be sure if you're using narrow filters that you exercise that RIT knob a lot. It seems more and more hams nowadays are not that good at zero beating and often will answer your CQ up to several hundred Hz off frequency. Know the bands and the propagation conditions on them to know the best band to operate when you have little time in the shack. This is controversial, but I never ever send /QRP after my call. It isn't necessary, and I feel like I'm down on my knees begging for an answer if I would use /QRP. I've made 80,000 QSOs without resorting to that, so..... Basically I'm not really a QRPer — I'm just an ordinary ham doing ordinary ham things except with 5 watts instead of 100, 500, 1000..... In addition to the perfect

code, your signal should be perfect also. Again a weak signal with a sharp crisp note is easier copy with QRP than a chirpy unstable one with high power.

Another thing about QRP is that even if it is very easy to make QSOs, it is still more challenging than overwhelming everyone with a KW signal into a big antenna. Because it is more challenging, it is more rewarding and satisfying. Also remember the FCC guidelines say use only enough power to make the contact. You just don't need that high power a great deal of the time.

A lot of folks say that ALL the skill in making QRP QSOs is at the receiving end of the QSO. I say if that is true, why doesn't everyone who runs QRP have WAS, DXCC, etc? All they need do is get on the air and the skill at the other end will make the QSOs for them — right? Huh-uh — the QRP operator needs skill also as sprinkled through the above paragraphs like sending good sounding code, using proper procedure, and so on. He also needs the skill of copying higher speed code, of using proper techniques in mak-

ing different kind of QSOs — rag chew, DX, contest, net, and so forth.

I think that's enough rambling for this column. Maybe next time I'll have something more organized. At least as time goes by, I will have more time to write these columns as well as more time to do other things. Why? Because I'm retiring. Oh, you thought I was already retired. That's partly right, but over the next several months I'm gradually retiring from my work as VP of the NAQCC which has occupied much of my time over the past almost 9 years now. President Tom WY3H and I are turning the club over to younger leadership as we both approach 70 years of age. If you're a NAQCC member you'll know about that and find out even more as time goes by. I only mention it in passing here. Till next column, I hope you'll visit my web site, especially if you haven't been there before and this column aroused your interest in QRP and CW. You'll find a lot more info on the topic at <http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/> Or if you have any questions on the topic, email me at jsk3wwp@windstream.net. 73 

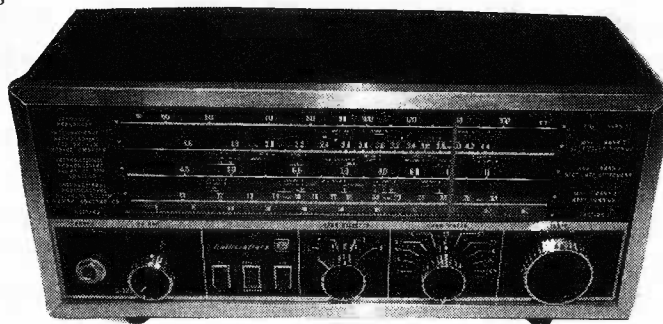
SCHOOL DAYS

by Sean Doran, W8OKN

It's back in time, as in WAY back. We're talking less than two years after the USA pulled out of Vietnam. It was some time ago.

In those days, before I was licensed, my first ham receiver was an old tube era World War 2 receiver. It was functioning very well and was a pleasure to operate. But now that I think about it, WW2 was only 31 years prior to 1976, and now, 1976 is 35 years ago from today. So at the time frame in which I'm referring to, the timeline to WW2 was shorter than the timeline in which I write about today. That should help place things into perspective.

At the prime age of 14, I regularly found myself listening to my dad's Hallicrafter (S-125) short-wave radio (see photo), which sat on the newly remodeled lime green kitchen counter. On one Sunday afternoon, while listening to a Cuban short-wave broadcast beaming in to northern Michigan, I dropped down the band (later I would learn that it was 40 meters), and I heard people chatting with each other from Illinois to Texas. I had to ask, "Dad, who are these guys?". He explained, "Those



Hallicrafters S-125, 1972, Inabnet.

are licensed radio operators." I don't exactly remember the date, but it was sometime in 1976 and I became hooked, and I've been hooked ever since.

Just a few days later, my dad came home with the news that one of the other teachers at the high school was a ham and he was very willing to help me pass my Novice test. At this time in history, we had 5 classes of licenses; Novice, Technician, General, Advanced and Extra. This wonderful teacher, Mr. Sanback, KD8BF, would become my personal ham radio teacher, mentor and encourager. If it weren't for him, I would have surely given

up. I will always be grateful to him.

Brand new to electronics and applied math, I needed the encouragement and the help, and he was there to help me. For me, the material didn't come easily and passing the test took nearly a year of study.

Remember, this was before the Internet and before local libraries had "ham radio" study books. I couldn't call anyone to order my Novice license study book, or get online to take practice tests. Those practice test, to my knowledge, didn't exist. In fact, a few years later, when practice tests became popular, they were considered highly controversial. They were considered by many as a form of cheating!

In addition to finding the right materials to study, so that I could pass the theory portion of the exam, I needed to figure out a way to learn code. As a castaway on the island of ham radio, in northern Michigan, where the closest ham could have

been 20 miles away, and during a time when materials were tough to find, I quickly learned that I needed a buddy's help and I needed it now. And to my surprise, the solution was right in front of me.

Shortly after learning that Mr. Sanback was my mentor, I also discovered that he was the actual owner of the WW2 receiver I had been using. But one day, upon returning home from school, I found the radio gone from my bedroom. I learned later that night, from my parents, that Mr. Sanback had another potential ham radio student and he was the next recipient of the WW2 radio receiver. My dad had forgotten to mention that he was just borrowing it so that I could learn some code. But who was it that now had that radio? Well, it took me a few more days to figure that one out, but I soon did.

Just north of town, on a small lake called Horseshoe Lake, my best friend and I hung out together, doing what his dad called, "gallivanting". Well, after looking that one up, I had to agree with him. Jim and I just rode our bikes from place to place, looking for pleasure (or trouble). We were young and often bored. It was during one of my summer trips to the lake that he and I decided to hang out in his house one afternoon. You should have seen the surprise on my face when I saw that WW2 receiver in his basement. Jim wanted to be a



BC 348 receiver.

ham and although I considered us best friends, we never shared that with each other. Who would have mentioned it?

What Jim was about to learn, also, was that his WW2 receiver would soon disappear from his basement and find a permanent home in my bedroom, as soon as my dad had the opportunity to buy that receiver off of Mr. Sanback. Thanks dad! I always knew you were on my side. Instantly, my best friend and I were at odds, but I had that old receiver back!

Ironically, learning code never happened through the use of that radio.

Learning code happened in a way that no one may have predicted, unless you really knew me. It came as part of an extension of my childhood bad behavior and my propensity to be a gallivanter. My drive to learn code was partly driven by my desire to eventually get my Novice ticket, sure, but it was also driven by my desire to speak freely to my best friend without getting caught. That way, I figured, I could now "speak" to my friend Jim in code, written in most cases, and have it

take a great deal of time for any teacher to "decode" or decipher our message. And communicate, we did.

We'd send message back and forth as school kids did. But these messages were coded! In using Morse, we felt that the likelihood of getting caught had diminished, with our new found secret methods. Our messages were mostly harmless. I'm sure we had one or two that could have landed us in the back room, near that dark teacher's conference area, where they smoked, cussed, and talk about troubled kids.

We were young. And since no one else in school our age knew code, we thought we were the young 007s of the day. James Bond was my hero and I now had something in common with him. I was sending secret messages and getting away with it!

Passing notes back and forth back to each other had a new twist from our "younger" perspective. It was fun, exciting and daring. We were getting away with something sneaky. Somehow, it was rewarding and caused our hearts to beat a little faster.

And what was actually happening, whether I fully realized it or not? I was learning Morse code and it was something I'd carry with me for the rest of my life. Jim and I had a blast, messing around with notes in school, while learning the code for my new found ham radio

hobby. And now, that memory, is still here, all these years later. My life was about to change and it was going to change in a permanent way, and I was just now starting to realize it. Now, over 35 years later, I can see how those young daring days changed my life and made me a ham!

As the Christmas Season approached, Jim and I continued to learn code. Even though we still hadn't even picked up a code oscillator yet, we were able to quickly identify each letter, one at a time. With each new note the other sent, we were faster and more efficient, getting to the point where we could read the code without looking up each letter. We were making good progress. And by Christmas, we had a new member to our "club". Kim would also get his license and join us in the fun. The ham fever was spreading.

Winter turned into Spring and by June, I felt ready to take my Novice exam. Mr. Sanback was there, all along in the background, helping to answer any and all of my questions. When it was time to take the test, I can remember him coming over to our large red, brick home, and while sitting on the back wooden porch, he gave me the theory exam. The weather was nice and I had a perfect test environment.

Kim, Jim and I had no problem with the code. That was the easy part. But the theory, for me, was

another story indeed. I was there, all alone, on the porch, shaking. Failure would mean total embarrassment. It would mean having to face my mentor, and my dad, that I hadn't passed. Months of preparation and failure were not supposed to happen. But it happened.

That day was a real downer for me. I thought that I had studied hard enough, but it was not meant to be. I had failed. My gut sank and my eyes welled up. To my surprise, both of them simply told me what I needed to hear. The exam was tough for a young man and not everyone passes the first time, like Jim and Kim! I just needed to study the questions I missed and get back up off the ground.

The good news was that my failure was short lived. In 30 days, I was permitted to take the test again, and this time around, I was better prepared. I studied the questions that threw me. Failing was good though, since it prepared me for the next 2 failures I'd experience while testing for the General exam 3 years later. My dad was very patient then, too. In those days, we had to drive down to Detroit, which was a 2-1/2 hour drive for my dad. But even in my failure, he never showed a hint of disappointment. He did nothing but encourage me.

By 1981, I had passed my General exam. And then by 1984, I was an Advanced class amateur radio operator (only having to take that

exam once!). It wouldn't be until 1999, when another encourager (WB8RCR) would convince me to take my Extra and to get back on the air.

To me, code has its roots and they're deep. When I get on 40 meters to call CQ, I think back to those mysterious days when I would listen to those hams in 1976, down on the bottom end of the band. For me, code means deep friendship and good times. It also has its secret element and it somehow connects me to those spies of World War 2 who courageously fought for freedom and their country (like 007). For me, code gives me a sense of relaxation away from the day-to-day stuff and it takes me away, like a mini-vacation. And now it connects me with other fellow hams who have their own stories to tell about their younger days, when they learned code. They too, have history that connects them to their experiences. We share that, even though we don't always tell the story.

Here I am. As often as I can, I get on the low bands and call CQ in Morse code. Nearly 35 years later, you can still find me on the lower portion of 40 meters. I wonder who is listening. Maybe, just maybe, there's some young person out there asking his dad, "Dad, who are these guys?"

— Sean Doran, W8OKN



RECENT MORSE CODE TRAINING CLASS IS GREAT SUCCESS!

by Kevin Jones, W8KJ

Recently, our local radio club, near Cincinnati, Ohio, held an 8 week CW training class. There were 16 participants with 12 completing the course! (student ages varied from retired folks to high school)



CW training class.

The idea started when Butler County Amateur Radio Association W8WRK board members and general membership, expressed a desire to sponsor a class and learn Morse code as well. Many members are new “hams” and were interested in CW.

After posters went up at R and L Electronics, chatter on local repeaters, and email announcements went out over the *www*, the class was formed.

Classes were held once a week - Wednesday evenings — for about an hour. A facilitator used com-

puter generated characters or sent characters manually with a straight key. The Farnsworth method was used. (13 wpm character speed with 5 wpm spacing). Daily practice was stressed over and over and over...hi.

The great response and dedication from participants, and overall feedback has indicated Morse code is alive and well, and much desired by many of our newest licensed operators — and even some not so new operators. (Even though the CW requirement has been dropped).

A beautiful Vibroplex key was donated by two very special, gracious Tennessee ham friends to be drawn as a participation prize. We also provided a completion certificate during our “graduation” ceremony.

All feedback has led our local club to consider doing this class on an annual basis...the need is there. Let this be an inspiration for you to do this in your area or otherwise elmer those new to our wonderful hobby that they may experience it to it fullest!

— 73/good dx...(article by Kevin Jones, W8KJ – President Butler County Amateur Radio Association – Butler County Ohio)



CW class prize, a Vibroplex key.



THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED

by Bill Wornham, NZ1D #6315

Many Morse enthusiasts bemoan the “demise” of CW, in FCC testing, on the airwaves, the loss of band segments, etc., but what about the complete loss of Amateur Radio itself? Such a calamity did happen, and not only once, but twice.

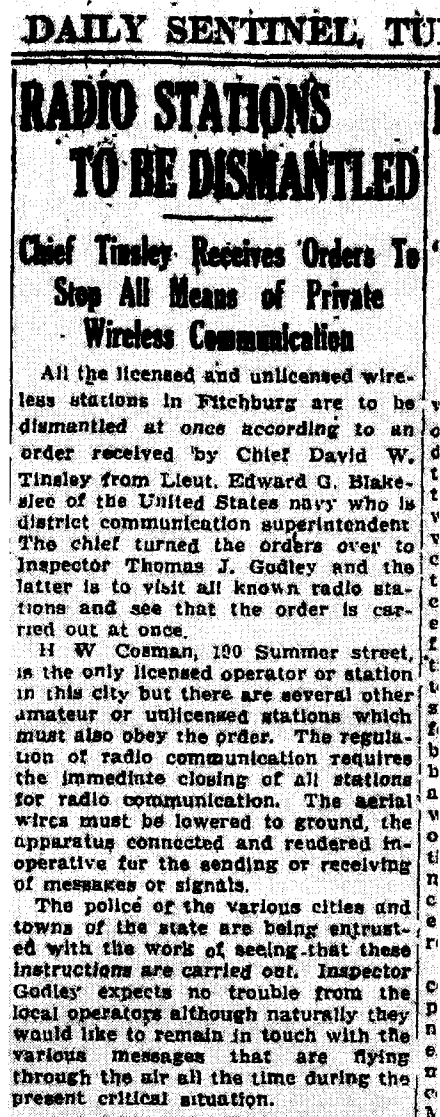


Fig 1. Wireless shutdown order, Fitchburg Mass., Daily Sentinel, April 10, 1917.

Bosnia, June 1914: An open sports car moves along a main thoroughfare in Sarajevo. A Serbian schoolboy nervously approaches the car and fires three bullets at the nattily-dressed couple in the rear seat. This young man's misguided act of nationalism has two profound results, the second probably neither intended nor imagined. His action not only ends the lives of the Austrian Empire's heir apparent and his wife, but it plunges Europe into a grossly miscalculated and terrible war. Sixty years earlier, writing about a different war with similar players, and in the same general area, Lord Tennyson had said it simply: “Some one had blunder'd.”

While Europe's opposing war machines were grinding much of that continent to rubble, “Amateur wireless” was making great strides in the U.S. In the two years since the government had enacted licensing, the U.S. amateur wireless population had grown five-fold to 6,000 licensees, but the ugly specter of U.S. involvement in the war loomed darkly on the horizon.

Although President Wilson had proclaimed neutrality, amateur radio operators knew that their use of the wireless might soon be in jeopardy.

The first hint of a shut down may have been a temporary “quiet” order for west coast operators in 1914. The March 1917 *QST* reported, “When the European war first broke out, a lot of us on the Pacific coast were compelled to shut up.” The reason wasn't given, or why it was for the Pacific coast only, but it may have been related to the fact that Admiral Spee's fleet roamed virtually unmolested in the southern Pacific until confronted in a major naval battle (and British humiliation) off Coronel, Chile. Intercepted wireless signals had played a key role in locating the German fleet.

Whatever the reason, after some negotiations with the Commissioner of Navigation in Washington (the Navy was in charge of wireless in those days) the order had been lifted. Then, on April 6, 1917, President Wilson dropped the other shoe when he issued an

Executive Order banning all wireless activity. The order affected not just transmitting activity but all receiving as well, requiring "all radio apparatus...be disconnected from both the antennae and ground circuits." The district Radio Inspectors sent letters of compliance addressed to all "radio experimenters" and enclosed a "blank" that had to be returned to the government to report compliance; failure to do so would lead to "a rigid investigation." Local police were authorized to dismantle any wireless "apparatus" found to be non-compliant.

Many newspapers across the country carried the order. As shown in the accompanying graphic (Fig. 1), in my former area of Fitchburg, MA, the April 10, 1917 Daily Sentinel reported the order under a heading "RADIO STATIONS TO BE DISMANTLED." The order stipulated "the regulation of radio communication requires the immediate closing of all stations for radio communication. The aerial wires must be lowered to the ground, the apparatus [dis]connected and rendered inoperative for the sending or receiving of messages or signals."

Across the U.S. similar letters went out from all the district radio inspectors. For example, a thousand miles away the April 11, 1917 *Sheboygan Press* (Fig. 2) reported that wireless operator Harold Burhop of that city had

received his letter from J F Dillon, the 9th District Radio Inspector. (Note: Further research revealed that Burhop's Amateur call letters c. 1915 were 9RW.)

Burhop's letter stated in part, "In accordance with the order of the President of the United States, promulgated in a letter of instructions from the commandant of the Great Lakes Naval District, you will immediately dismantle all aerial wires and radio apparatus, both sending and receiving, and place the same out of commission until further notice. Also, please notify all other stations with which you are in communication as to the purport of this order and use your best endeavor to have them comply with the same. In any case, the dismantling of the station must be completed within forty-eight hours after the receipt of this notice."

The ARRL also published the order in full in the May 1917 issue of *QST* under the headline, "WAR!" In an unexpected windfall for the nation's military, thousands of thus disfranchised wireless experimenters like Burhop and Cosman soon filled the ranks of the army and navy as ready-made wireless operators.

Talk about a CC&R! The wireless ban was but another facet in a broad crack-down on civil liberties, including severe limitations on freedom of the press and speech. In the eyes of many, enemy spies lurked everywhere and newspapers

SHEBOYGAN, WIS., V

BURHOP ENTERS NAVY WIRELESS OPERATOR

Harold Burhop, son of William Burhop, the well known mail carrier, 1945 North Seventh street, who was one of the first Sheboygan boys to take up the study of wireless telegraphy, who by hard study and a lot of practice became quite expert in receiving and sending messages, yesterday entered the service of the Great Lakes Naval department as a wireless operator and left at once for Chicago to report for duty.

Mr Burhop, who is only 19 years of age, erected a wireless outfit at his home some time ago and for some time has been receiving and sending messages with other amateur operators in the city. Yesterday he received official orders to dismantle his apparatus and to notify all other local wireless stations to place their apparatus out of commission. The letter, which is self explanatory follows:

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the order of the President of the United States, promulgated in a letter of instructions from the Commandant of the Great Lakes Naval District, you will immediately dismantle all aerial wires and radio apparatus, both sending and receiving, and place the same out of commission until further notice.

Also, please notify all other stations with which you are in communication as to the purport of this order and use your best endeavor to have them comply with the same.

In any case, the dismantling of the station must be completed within forty-eight hours after the receipt of this notice.

This measure is considered necessary for the defense of the country, and the Navy Department has ample authority to deal with any case of failure to comply according to military procedure.

Please acknowledge receipt and report your action in the premises.

Respectfully,

J F DILLON,

United States Radio Inspector.

Fig 2. Wireless shutdown order, Sheboygan, Wisc., Press, April 11, 1917.



carried many reports of actual or suspected sabotage. For example, a day earlier, the same Wisconsin newspaper reported that two women in a Sheboygan restaurant were holding a casual conversation in German when a waiter stepped up to them and advised them to speak English. When one of the women smiled and asked why, the waiter flashed a secret service badge under the lapel of his coat and said, "It is deemed advisable and those are my orders."

The wireless was easily suspect. The average citizen was not fully at ease with a new wired contraption called the telephone, let alone the necessary apparatus for sending and receiving messages by wireless. It was easy to conjure up a sinister image of a person closeted in a dimly-lit room, crowned with a headset and hunched over a Morse key and wireless set, gleaning secret messages out of the mystical screeches, beeps and pops emanating therefrom.

Amateur wireless experimentation in the U.S. had just lost its "spark." The ban on receiving wireless signals would continue for more than two years, until June 1919. Transmitting would be prohibited for an additional six months, until the following November. A similar shutdown would occur twenty-five years later in another war. As author E. B. White would write a generation later, "We grow tyrannical fighting tyranny."



MORSE CODE OPERATING FOR AMATEUR RADIO

by Rob Brownstein, K6RB & Jim Talens, N3JT

ISBN: 978-1-62595-002-4

Published by The American Radio Relay League \$17.95

Reviewed by SKIP N2EI - FISTS # 6214

Reviewing this book for The Keynote may seem a bit like preaching to the choir but hang in with me for a few paragraphs.

When the various entities around the world began to drop the requirement of Morse code for, at least, basic amateur radio licensing, many folks figured that code operation would go the way of the dinosaurs.

Well it is no surprise to loyal FIST Folks that rumors of CW's death were greatly exaggerated.

Personally, I have been a CW Op throughout my ham radio career and I currently operate using Morse code almost exclusively. I can attest to the fact that there are no shortage of folks still hitting the keys. Many are folks that entered the hobby after any code requirements were dropped.

Now that CW is no longer a requirement it can be enjoyed as a form of radio art. This is the message of this new book from the ARRL.

Despite many myths to the contrary, Learning Morse code was

never really all that hard. A few hours of learning and regular practice cans turn anyone into a competent CW Op. To give folks a leg up to learn Code (or to get back into the game after a hiatus) Rob K6RB and Jim N3JT have written the perfect guide for folks who want to join folks like me down at the bottom end of the HF bands.

The book discusses a bit of CW history and then gets right down to pointing the reader to the many resources available for learning the code.

Once the reader has mastered the characters, the book gives all the information anyone would need to get on the air and get started. They give a complete guide as to how to set up a ham station for CW operation.

If you have a friend who is interested in learning CW, this book is the tool you need. Highly recommended!



VIBROPLEX LIGHTNING BUG

by Joe Schlatter, W4HH

The front cover of “The Keynote,” Issue 2, 2013, featured photos of Morse history memorabilia found in a wallet purchased at an estate sale. I’d like to share with FISTS members a piece of telegraphic history I found on eBay.

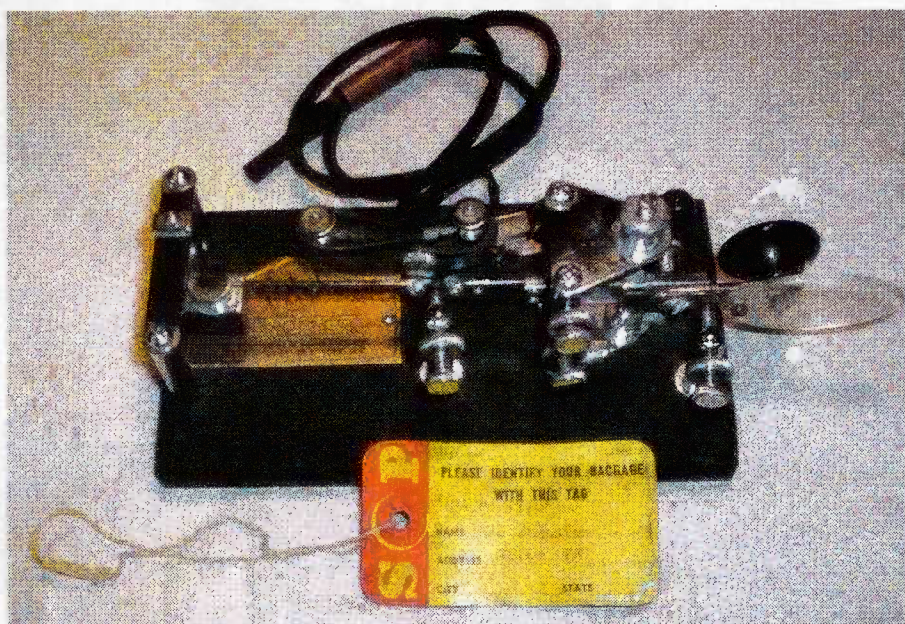
In late October 2010 I won the bidding on an old Vibroplex Lightning Bug that was for sale on eBay. I am not an expert on bugs, nor am I a collector. However, several things caught my eye about this old bug:

1. It was in very good condition.
2. It came with a carrying case that also was in good shape.

3. Attached to the carrying case was a Southern Pacific railroad baggage tag identifying this bug as belonging to W. E. JOHNSON TELEG OPR. I contacted the individual who sold this key on eBay and asked about its origin. He said he bought the key at an estate sale and was told by a family member that the owner had been a telegrapher with the Southern Pacific railroad.

The Bug is a Lightning Bug model with serial number 169693. According to the Vibroplex website, the serial number indicates it was manufactured in 1950. http://www.vibroplex.com/date_your_vibroplex.html

Accompanying this message are two photos: One of the bug with the baggage tag, and, one of the bug, the case, and the tag. The baggage tag is from Southern Pacific railroad



Vibroplex Lightning Bug.

and reads:

PROPERTY OF
NAME: W.E. JOHNSON
ADDRESS: TELEG OPR

Assuming this bug did belong to W. E. Johnson, a Southern Pacific telegrapher, I continue to try to locate information about him, without much luck. Here’s a summary of what I have found so far (as of May 2013).

The railroad telegraphers appear to have had a strong union, The Order of Railroad Telegraphers. If you go to eBay and search for “rail-

road telegrapher,” you will find letters, documents, journals, and union membership cards for sale. The magazine, *The Railroad Telegrapher*, was published for many years and appears to be the union journal.

Here are three pieces of information I have found that may pertain to W. E. Johnson, or, possibly, to his father or grandfather, or to some combination of him, his father, and his grandfather.

Item 1. Sunset Magazine, Vol 6, #1, November 1900, lists the Southern Pacific stations and station mas-



Vibroplex Lightning Bug and tag bug case.

ters. Corinne, Utah, station master is listed as W. E. Johnson.

Item 2. An entry in *The Railroad Telegrapher*, Vol XXX, 1913, reads: Bro W. E. Johnson bid in Union agency, received on third there by Bro. H. S. Stephen. I do not know what this entry means but I suspect it means, in 1913, a vacancy for a railroad telegrapher came open and W. E. Johnson bid to be considered for the job.

Item 3. In *The Railroad Telegrapher*, Vol XXXI, No. 4, April 1914, I found this entry. "The following births have been reported since the last issue of *The Railroad Telegrapher*. . . Bro & Mrs. W. E. Johnson of Benton Harbor, Mich., a girl."

Because these entries are dated

between 1900 and mid-1914, I suspect this W. E. Johnson may be the father of the W. E. Johnson who owned the key I purchased on eBay — because — the key dates to 1950, when this W. E. Johnson would have been quite old and likely retired. On the other hand, if this W. E. Johnson were 20 - 25 years old in 1913, he would have been 57 - 62 in 1950. My next project is to search the federal census records from 1900 to 1940 for W. E. Johnson (the 1940 census is the latest to be released publicly).

If any FISTS reader has suggestions or information that may help, please contact me via email, rosenjoel@hotmail.com, or, by snail mail at 196 Potomac Drive,

Heathsville VA 22473.

— TNX ES 73 DE W4HH SK

— I was first licensed in early 1958 at age 13 as KN4FPT and operated mainly 6 AM as a Tech, K4FPT. Upgraded to Advanced in 1979 and to Extra in 1992. I obtained my current call when vanity calls first became available. One of my Elmers was Herrick Brown, now a Silent Key, W4ZZ; I tried to get Brownie's old call but had to settle for W4HH. I have never been very active but now that I've retired, I'm working a lot of QRP CW with an assortment of Small Wonder rigs, a K1, a J-36 key, this bug and a couple of others I have picked up since being bitten by the bug bug.

Joe Schlatter, W4HH



ANDY THALL, K200'S, QRP GO-KIT



These are a few pictures of Andy Thall, K200's, QRP Go-Kit. The transceiver is a TenTec R4020. He has an Emtech ZM-2 antenna tuner, an Autek Research RF Analyser, a rechargeable 12v battery, a pocket-sized 20m end-fed zepp with supporting rope, a J-38 key, and a small speaker. The case is a gun case sold by Academy Sports for about \$17. It has given him many enjoyable hours of operation out in the field.





THE FIRST WORLDWIDE K7QO CODE COURSE

by Chuck Adams, K7QO

Starting the week of September 10, 2013, Chuck Adams will conduct the first worldwide code course in Phoenix Arizona. The purpose of this live course is to not only mentor a new generation of code enthusiasts, but to renew the interest of an older generation of hams who have abandoned the code. This code course will help individuals worldwide learn and develop skills in the art and science of sending and receiving messages encoded in the sound of wireless telegraphy developed by Samuel F.B. Morse.

The course in Phoenix is sponsored and setup by the Thunderbird Amateur Radio Club of Phoenix and a room acquired at the Thunderbird School of Global Management.

Enrolling students in Phoenix will pay \$20 US at the start of the course. Upon completion of the course, they will be given back their \$20. The money is an incentive to invest in the course and stick with it.

ALL funds not returned to students will be donated to the general fund of TBARC.

This should be the model for clubs to follow. Why do something for free? What is currently happening to the number of club members in your club? Most likely it is decreasing, as are most ham radio clubs, worldwide. The code course gives your club a chance to educate a group and possibly get new blood into an organization

that might otherwise pass quietly into the night.

The official code course audio will be that developed over a number of years by K7QO and is free to anyone on the planet via the web. Chuck will personally make and distribute copies to the first live class in Phoenix. The material will be available on the web sometime in July to give interested parties time to download and make copies. Please do not charge for the material. Professionally duplicated copies are available from FISTS CW Club (www.fists.org) for the cost of postage, so no one should have to pay for the disks. No copyright involved, so feel free to give away as many copies as you can. The new version will have a number of 3.1, but the only changes are the font in the manual and few minor changes in wording. Either version 3.0 or 3.1 should

do nicely for the purpose of the class.

Every radio amateur radio club on the planet is personally challenged to participate in this venture. Someone with the skill in Morse that is willing to give up an hour a week for 8 weeks should step up to this challenge and contribute to the survival of Morse as a viable communication method. All you have to do as a teacher is stay one page ahead of the students.

A printed daily log to aid the student in keeping track of their practice progress during the course will be available. There are no grades and no pressure on the student. Students will be required only to show up for each class and to give it their best effort for 8 weeks. Maybe 30 minutes to 1 hour daily during the course should do the trick. The only equipment necessary for the



A TRIBUTE TO BILL WELSH, W6DDB

by Joe Falletta, W6UDO, Fists #9995

student to obtain is an portable MP3 player to carry the audio files around for listening. Pen and paper required also. A method of determining an individual's speed progress will involve the use of a free computer program after week 5, so don't push for it.

Here are some logistics to be worked out.

1. Needed: An inexpensive, but pleasant sounding, code practice oscillator. Possibly a club kit that could be sold to build club funds.

2. A cheap straight key or iambic paddle to be used for sending. Sorry, but the semi-automatic paddle is too expensive and too complicated a device for this course. The prices have been driven up by collectors and manufacturers to put it out of the reach of many radio amateurs.

Updates will be added to this announcement as the starting date approaches. If your local club wants to officially participate in this venture, by all means send me an email (email address at the bottom of this page) and I will add your name to the list that I will keep on the K7QO web page. Great free advertising for your club. Challenge another club in your area to beat your club in a contest for numbers.

— Humbly offered, Chuck Adams, K7QO.



Bill Welsh (W6DDB, Fists #1525 SK) taught literally thousands of folks like me over his 50 years in the classroom, not only to pass our amateur radio exams, but to love Ham Radio as well. His classes, taught at W6LS at the Lockheed Amateur Radio Club in Burbank, CA, were more than memorization over a weekend; they were extensive and ran one evening a week over several weeks. Bill actually taught us the Why's as well as the What's how Ohms and Watts laws actually worked, how to figure the length of a dipole, and all about Eli the Ice-man, for example. It was this knowledge I carried with me at home as I tinkered with breadboard circuits, and farther along in military and civilian work as an electronic tech. Along with all that, Bill included a healthy study of Morse code, so we could pass the Novice code exam. I started with an interest in radio communications; Bill fanned the flames to fascination, and a love for CW that has lasted close to 50 years.

A tribute to Bill reads like a Who's Who in Radio. Besides serving as President and Trustee of W6LS, and as teacher of all the Ham Radio classes, he provided instruction tapes to the sight-impaired through the Library of Congress. He wrote numerous articles for QST, 73, and Ham Radio magazines, and was CQ Magazine Novice Editor for 20 years. CQ recently announced Bill as one of its 2013 Hall of Fame

inductees. More than all this, Bill ran all the Burbank hamfests and an ARRL Southwest Division convention. He served in World War II in the Merchant Marine and was a Commercial Radio Op. For his tireless devotion to radio, Bill received the Edison and de Forest Amateur Radio Awards.

Bill especially loved encouraging new hams who had an interest in CW. He'd hang out on the FISTS operating frequencies and

“Even now, the memories flood back as I enjoy a real good ragchew, one of those where I really get to know the other OM/YL and we finally QRT only when we’re both “falling asleep at the switch.” ”

in the Novice bands to contact new CW ops, and always sent a QSL card.

Even now, the memories flood back as I enjoy a real good ragchew, one of those where I really get to know the other OM/YL and we finally QRT only when we’re both “falling asleep at the switch.” I still remember as though it was yesterday the afternoon Conrad, WB6TGJ (now KK4YS), and I were hanging out with Bill at W6LS. Bill was chatting with a ham in Michigan (on CW, of course!), while we were yakking with him. At one point, Bill chuckled and, since neither Con nor I had said any-

thing funny, we asked him why he laughed. Bill explained he’d told the MI ham it was rather cool that day in Burbank, around 60 degrees. The reply: it was rather warm there in MI around 30! Just then it dawned on us, and Con and I were amazed that Bill could carry on a conversation with us while chatting on CW.

To this day, I’ve never had that talent. My XYL will come into the shack to tell me something, and I’ll have to send a quick AS to ask the station I’m in QSO with to hold on. Marie, Bill’s beloved wife of 60 years (W6JEP, FISTS #2007, Silent Key) later told us that, as a Commercial Op, Bill had

to be able to copy more than one station at the same time, and keep them all straight.

Certainly one of the biggest thrills in my life was contacting Bill and Marie a few years ago. I’d been QRT for a while, and had recently rediscovered the joys of ham radio and especially CW. After a brief introduction and a couple reminders to erase the past 40 years, Bill and I became good radio friends again. We had a few more chances to meet for some very FB ragchews; something I’ll always remember and be thankful for. Always a gentleman and solid fist on a Vibroplex bug, Bill remained both to the end. His mind just as sharp; the last time we spoke he told me he was training himself to run a paddle with his left hand, and the bug his right. Sounds like a good secret to keeping the mind sharp into the Golden Years!

Bill & Marie: Vy 73 es mni tn timer for the great memories, and for all you did to keep the music of CW alive!



FOR SALE

Complete Yaesu FT 101D station with all original manuals and a D-104 Microphone (less the amp). All for \$750 plus shipping. Call Skip at 405-359-0704 or email at n5cfm@live.com.

PROFICIENCY PINS

by Paul Schreier, HB9DST/AA1MI

With the relaxation of Morse Code requirements for licensing, radio amateurs willing to learn telegraphy have lost a visible goal to aim for. To help beginners reach a level where they can use this mode in a relaxed and fluent manner, as well as aid those who would like to improve their CW abilities again, the HTC offers a proficiency award in Morse Code at three different levels. With the lapel pins issued by the Helvetia Telegraphy Club you may proudly display your certified CW abilities and at the same time encourage others to do the same.



Obtaining such a pin is a simple process. First, download the free HQX Morse Code Training Software developed by club member HB9HQX, who has spent the past several years refining his software to meet the specific needs of not just beginners but also those who wish to improve their abilities. Next, using a feature integrated into that software, take the Morse Code exam

at one of three speeds (80/100/120 characters/min = 16/20/24 words/minute). You get immediate feedback after taking the exam, and if you have fewer than the prescribed number of errors you send the test results file to the HTC via e-mail. Upon receipt we confirm the result with a printable PDF certificate and pass along the Paypal information to cover our costs (10 Swiss Francs plus postage). When we receive the funds, we then send your pin.

For complete details on this proficiency awards program, go to the HTC website (English version) at <http://www.htc.ch/en/node/438>.

HTC contact:

English: Paul Schreier, HB9DST/AA1MI, HTC representative for the European CW Association ecm@htc.ch



FISTS SPRINT SPRING 2013



QRO

Call	Name	State	Fists #	Class	Total Q's	Member Q	Non Member Q	Points	Mults	Score	80M Qs	40M Qs	20M Qs	15M Qs	10M Qs	Total
N2ED	Ed	NJ	2454	QRO	81	69	12	369	37	13653	0	16	37	21	7	81
K4BAI	John	GA	2158	QRO	73	67	6	347	32	11104	0	10	46	16	1	73
WB0B	Larry	IA	2916	QRO	51	41	10	225	27	6075	0	7	30	14	0	51
K4ORD	Riley	V	4272	QRO	35	33	2	169	24	4056	0	15	9	10	1	35
WB0PYF	Ray	MO	7986	QRO	40	36	4	188	20	3760	0	17	22	1	0	40
N3RSD	Frank	DE	2411	QRO	36	34	2	174	20	3480	0	11	17	8	0	36
AA8MI	Gene	OH	914	QRO	26	26	0	130	22	2860	0	8	18	0	0	26
KO4OL	Glenn	KY	6583	QRO	24	22	2	114	17	1938	0	5	13	5	1	24
W8KYD	Ron	OH	10121	QRO	20	20	0	100	17	1700	0	6	10	4	0	20
W1SFR	Steve	VT	15712	QRO	21	17	4	93	16	1488	0	8	9	4	0	21
K8CI	Rich	OH	5270	QRO	15	15	0	75	15	1125	0	3	12	0	0	15
N5DY	Jack	OK	11105	QRO	17	17	0	85	12	1020	0	0	13	4	0	17
W0UY	Tom	KS	8632	QRO	17	16	1	82	12	984	0	3	14	0	0	17
VE5BCS	Harold	SK	3498	QRO	19	10	9	68	13	884	0	0	10	9	0	19
KG2LO	Roland	NJ	2980	QRO	12	12	0	60	11	660	0	12	0	0	0	12
K8VFR	Rose	MI	5602	QRO	11	11	0	55	10	550	0	5	6	0	0	11
N8KC	Ken	MI	1556	QRO	10	10	0	50	8	400	0	2	6	2	0	10
W9KMP	Ken	IL	4626	QRO	8	8	0	40	7	280	0	0	8	0	0	8
NZ1D	Bill	FL	6315	QRO	5	5	0	25	5	125	0	0	5	0	0	5
AB1BW	George	CT	10794	QRO	4	4	0	20	4	80	0	0	3	1	0	4
SP6JOE	Joe	DX	764	QRO	3	3	0	15	3	45	0	0	0	3	0	3
WF4O	Foster	VA	9353	QRO	3	3	0	15	3	45	0	3	0	0	0	3

CLUB

Call	Name	State	Fists #	Class	Total Q's	Member Q	Non Member Q	Points	Mults	Score	80M Qs	40M Qs	20M Qs	15M Qs	10M Qs	Total
W8NCK	Chuck	OH	8200	Club		11	0	55	9	495	0	3	8	0	0	

Call	Name	State	Fists #	Class	Total Q's	Member Q	Non Member Q	Points	Mults	Score	80M Qs	40M Qs	20M Qs	15M Qs	10M Qs	Total
K5YQF	Cecil	TX	8077	QRP	26	25	1	127	20	2540	0	0	21	5	0	26
K3HX	Tim	PA	5976	QRP	25	24	1	122	15	1830	0	21	3	1	0	25
KG4UPO	Wiley	VA	10035	QRP	17	16	1	82	15	1230	0	4	11	2	0	17
NK1N	Glen	NJ	13525	QRP	4	4	0	20	4	80	0	0	4	0	0	4
W5ODS	Gary	OK	12990	QRP	3	3	0	15	3	45	0	1	2	0	0	3
KC9EHQ	Dave	IL	12779	QRP	3	3	0	15	3	45	0	2	1	0	0	3
K2JF	Phil	NY	11096	QRP	2	2	0	10	2	20	0	0	2	0	0	2
KJ0P	John	MN	15622	QRP	2	2	0	10	2	20	0	0	2	0	0	2

SOAPBOX

Call	Comments
N8KC	Not many Fists out there to work.
K8CI	Very little participation
SP6JOE	Conditions not good
N2ED	Pretty Good Conditions, even worked a few Fists on 10M! Hoping for a larger turn out of Fists!
W5ODS	Only had last 30 minutes to operate. Lots of QRN in OK WITH STORMS IN AREA.
KC9EHQ	This was my first Sprint for FISTS, I think. I haven't been all that active on HF since we moved into our house seven years ago, but I am trying to remedy that. The last time I was on the air was September 2012. I am OK with CW, and can copy around 13 wpm. Most stations in today's sprint were going faster than I could copy, and the bandwidth around the calling frequency was crowded. Hopefully as time goes on, I will get better with this. I definitely plan on taking part in the Summer Sprint and GYFWW. My station today was an Elecraft K2/10 (ATU, AF, SSB, NB, 160M), Icom Press CMOS-4 keyer and SCAF-1 audio filter, using Benchter paddles. Antenna was a G5RV Jr. in a V, up 22' at the apex
N3RSD	Great Fun! Need More Sprints!
K5YQF	Heard some really loud stations but didn't seem to be much activity - maybe just bad propagation. But fun as always and I did get to try using my Vibroplex Deluxe some. Hope it wasn't too bad
WB0PYF	Good to hear everyone and thanks.
KJ0P	Very OM here but very new to CW. Thanks to FISTS for the foundation and continuing inspiration.
W8NCK	KB8KJK, operator, First Sprint worked in years. Bands were in good shape but crowded. I rarely hear any Fists Ops on the usual Fists Freqs, except during contests.
WF4O	Probably not a winning score- but by mailing in my paperwork- my first contest is official. The bands were poor, but I had a great (if nervous) time. Ed- tnx for your patience- also patience form Riley and Pat too. I am enjoying CW and the Spring Sprint is one more facet for me to explore and get involved in.
KG4UPO	This is my first log submission for a Fists Contest. I hope it is adequate and properly done. If not, please let me know.
VE5BCS	I hope there are too many mistakes. I should be getting better at this. Thanks.
K8VER	Don't know where the all Fists guys hide out at?
WB0B	The Keynote arrived just in time to remind me the Spring Sprint was an approaching event. Have not participated in a couple of years. I am marking my calendar to make future Sprints if possible.

FISTS CW CLUB
PO Box 47
Hadley MI 48440
<http://www.fists.org>
nancy@tir.com

Upcoming Events:
Get Your Feet Wet Weekend
G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest
-- details inside and on www.fists.org

Fall Sprint in October

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
MICHIGAN WEB PRESS
PERMIT #792
ROYAL OAK, MI 48068

***PLEASE LOOK AT YOUR RENEWAL DATE
ON THE MAILING LABEL AND RENEW IF IT IS TIME OR
PAST DUE (\$15 TO FISTS, PO BOX 47, HADLEY MI 48440
OR PAYPAL TO fists@tir.com)***

Send in your stories and photos for The Keynote! The
more articles we get, the more Keynote issues you get.