

The KeyNote



Newsletter of the Americas Chapter, FISTS CW Club—The International Morse Preservation Society
Issue 1, 2022

Morse Code in the Media

by Bryan Bergeron, NU1N

I'm a fan of the Sci-Fi genre, especially when the setting is in the distant future. I especially appreciate stories where the author does some real work to create a future when the relationship between AI, robotics and humans is symbiotic. Anyone can create a dystopian future. My latest favorite video streaming series is an HBO (Max) production, *Raised by Wolves*—a story set in the future and on a distant planet where robots are essentially humans with superior powers.

One of the robots has to be “memory wiped,” but a copy of his memories remains intact, and that intelligence manages to communicate to the outside world as a tic or twitch. And, surprise, this tic is recognized by a smart boy as a message coded in—you guessed it—Morse Code. Kind of a stretch, but Boy Scouts of Space or something like it is bound to survive into the distant future.

Of course, Morse Code has appeared in dozens of movies over the years. I'm sure you could get a list, by year, by searching the web. However, going on my memories alone, aside from the dozens of war movies where the radio operator is desperately signaling ‘SOS’ as the ship sinks, the most notable movies featuring Morse Code have been at least one *Stargate Universe* episode (*Stargate Universe* is primarily aboard an alien spaceship), the *Stargate Continuum* movie (*Stargate* is on the earth), the *Independence Day* movie (aliens attack earth), at least a dozen *Star*

Trek variant shows and movies, and the *Raised by Wolves* series I noted above.

The only fictional text featuring Morse Code that comes to mind is Dan Brown's *Deception Point*. Unfortunately, the treatment of Morse Code is on the edge of possibility, since it involves a submarine sonar operator who detects someone on the surface signaling in Morse Code with a pick axe. Unfortunate, because I really enjoy Dan Brown's books.

So, what's your favorite fictional movie, book, or podcast that features Morse Code? Is the treatment of the code realistic?

73, Bryan (Editor)

Table of Contents

Morse Code in the Media.....	1
Information Page.....	2
Americas Chapter, President's Message.....	3
FISTS Awards.....	4
Welcome New FISTS Members.....	5
Counterfeit FIST?	8
My 10,000 Day CW/QRP Streak.....	8
Photos	9

“When you've worked a FISTS, 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 yield the answer, but your best bet is to ask a FISTS volunteer or look in the reference issue. Several volunteer contacts and/or email addresses have changed from the last reference issue of *The Key-Note*. Please make note of the following listings.

When emailing a volunteer please put the word FISTS in the title of your email. This will help the volunteer recognize that your email is important and not spam.

Awards and Certificates

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, awards@fistsna.org
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

Club Call, KNØWCW

Cody Codianni, KC2LSD, kc2lsd@fistsna.org
413 Martin Court, Leonardo, NJ 07737-1317

Membership Questions; Renewals; Call Changes; Name, Mailing, and Email Address Changes

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, membership@fistsna.org
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

FISTS Store Manager

Joe Falcone, N8TI, fistsstore@fistsna.org
9880 Musch Road, Brighton, MI 48116

Activities Manager

"Vacant"

If interested email to:

Joe Falcone N8TI fistsstore@fistsna.org

Website Changes (including getting your personal or club web page linked)

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, webmaster@fistsna.org
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

Code Buddy Volunteers and Buddies

<http://www.fistsna.org/codebuddy.html>

FISTS Sprints

"Vacant"

If interested email to:

Joe Falcone N8TI fistsstore@fistsna.org

Get Your Feet Wet Activity Day/G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest

"Vacant"

If interested email to:

Joe Falcone N8TI fistsstore@fistsna.org

The KeyNote Newsletter

Bryan Bergeron, NU1N, keynote@fistsna.org

**We need articles and reviews for
*The KeyNote!***

**NOTE: Image files need to be high resolution
JPGs (at least 1000 pixels wide).**

**Send your Word or text files to
keynote@fistsna.org**

The KeyNote

The Newsletter of the Americas Chapter of FISTS

Issue 1, 2022

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Send articles to:

keynote@fistsna.org

Design: Mary Cronin

Americas Chapter, President's Message

By Joe Falcone, N8TI

Lately, I have been active in Parks On The Air. That activity is something that a bunch of hams started after the ARRL's successful National Parks On The Air activity back a few years ago in 2016. The National Parks On the Air was a one year event and when it was over a few hams decided that they wanted to keep the fun going. They formed "Parks On The Air" or "POTA" and with a few dedicated and unselfish volunteers they set up an activity that is becoming very popular.

POTA involves a ham going to a National or State Park (or forest, gameland, trail, etc.) and "activating it." By activating it, I mean that the ham sets up his station at the park, either in his or her car, at a picnic table, in a tent or under a tree, and calls "CQ POTA." There is a website, similar to a DX Cluster site that "spots" the activating ham. Then the pileup ensues. Other hams, or "hunters," try to contact the activator and exchange a signal report and state. Once the activator is finished with the activation, his or her log is uploaded to volunteers who feed them into the computers, displaying the results on the POTA website.

There are about 10,000 registered parks on the system and thousands of hams participating. There are awards you can attain for achieving certain goals, starting at 10 parks contacted and upward. Both activators and hunters have awards available to them.

The whole purpose of the activity is not to compete, as it is not a contest, but to promote hams getting outside and merging good outdoor fun with ham radio activity. People will pack their radios to take along on a hike or just set up at a picnic table under a tree.

You could say that POTA helps prepare people for emergency off-the-grid radio preparedness, as it certainly does, but it also allows normal, everyday hams learn what it feels like to be on the receiving end of a pileup.

The modes that are used are CW, SSB, FM and digital modes. I imagine that AM would be welcome also. I believe that any mode of transmission is OK.

What does this have to do with Morse Code and CW operation? Well, it seems that a lot of people who go out and activate parks through POTA learn quickly that if you are working with a portable station, CW will often produce better results than Single Side Band. There are a lot of POTA operators who have moved from strictly SSB operating to CW operating.

There is no requirement, as we know, that a ham be required to learn and use Morse Code. A lot of us thought that without having the Morse Code requirement for licensing, Morse Code would struggle to stay relevant with the younger hams. However, given that the radios have gotten smaller and, in many situations, less expensive, and there have been advances made in battery technology resulting in lighter batteries with more capacity, younger people who enjoy being outside are adopting those small radios, many of

(continued on page 4)

President's Message (continued)

which are CW only, and taking them to the field. POTA provides those people with a platform to use their Morse skills, while learning about antenna theory, which is always fun.

It does appear that POTA SSB activity at any one time is about three times greater than CW activity. However, the POTA CW activity seems to be growing. It is fun to be on the receiving end of a pileup. It is also a lot of fun to put together a portable station and take it out to the field. Additionally, it is great to “hunt” the activators at their parks as many of them run QRP and your home station has to have “good ears” to hear them and make a contact.

As a result, I think you might want to look at the POTA website and see if you would be interested in getting involved. The more CW operators we have participating, the more we can attract others to use CW and Morse. It really is a lot of fun.

Before I sign off, I would like to mention a U.S. seller that I found on eBay that may be of help to you. He goes under the name of “atlabmgr.” (I think that is “ATT Lab Mgr” squeezed together.) He sells key bases for various straight keys. I bought a base for my Navy Flameproof key. The base weighs 3 pounds and has a nice finish on it, with brass accents. Just search for “Nokey” and his work should show up. His products really solve the problem of your key moving around on your operating desk or table. I am not receiving any sort of compensation or consideration for mentioning his products. I just believe that when someone has a Morse product that might help us out, it should be mentioned. He also sells springs for straight keys.

73, de Joe N8TI

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis, K6DF

Congratulations to all who earned operating awards from Nov. 20, 2021 to Feb 28, 2022.

Award certificates are available, from the Members Area of the Americas Chapter website, for members to download to their own computer for printing. A list of awards issued to your call/member-number is available in the Members Area. FISTS members may log into the Members Area from the following web page:

<https://fistsna.org/memlogon.php>

New Members can earn a free FISTS Club Key Patch for making their first 10-minute CW QSO with any FISTS member on any band, so get on the air and make your first 10-minute QSO with a FISTS member to earn your free KEY Patch!

New Member Patches Earned:

W4MSL Michael—QSO with WX9U
W0IBC Bruce—QSO with KA8HFN
W8SCS Shannon—QSO with W8VIJ
KA1CPR Wayne—QSO with W1QF
KA7HOS Russ—QSO with WAYPE
KC8KYV Randy—QSO with WD7DWE

We have a list of new members shown elsewhere in this issue of *The Keynote*. Please listen for them on the bands and help them to earn their FISTS Key Patch!

Award certificates are available free to all club members, in PDF format, so dust off those keys and get on the air and start making contacts. Try using the free “Log Converter” program to track your club awards, and it’s also a good general

(continued on page 5)

FISTS Awards (continued)

logging program as well. The author of Log Converter, Graham G3ZOD, is constantly providing updates and improvements to the program. This program was last updated on June 12, 2021 to version 4.1.0. This FREE software will track your FISTS awards automatically and allow you to send in your award logs to the FISTS Awards Manager at the click of a button! The best thing about it is...it's FREE! Log Converter is available for download on the Americas Chapter web site. Look for the download link on the main web page just below the "Welcome New Members" list.

Be sure to check the Americas Chapter web pages for updated awards information and how to apply for them: www.fistsna.org/awards.html.

If you have any award questions or suggestions, send e-mail to me at: awards@fistsna.org.

Wishing that you and yours stay safe and healthy.

73, Dennis K6DF ..._. _____ (30)

FISTS AWARDS ISSUED: Nov. 20, 2021–Feb. 28, 2022

Basic Century: M0OIC, IZ0O, WA4JK

Silver Century: K2FW, WA4JK

Gold Century: K2FW, SQ9S

Millionaire Award: IZ0ONL, WA4JK

2 Million Award: G5VZ, M0DHP, G0BON, WA4JK

3 & 4 Million Award: WA4JK

5 Million Award: PG4I, SQ9S, WA4JK

6 Million Award: IZ2FME, IU0HMB, PG4I, WA4JK

7 & 8 Million Award: PG4I

9 & 10 Million Award: IK0IXI

14 Million Award: NP3K

Spectrum 40M: WA4JK

Spectrum 80M: PG4I

Spectrum 20M: W7ZDX

Perpetual Prefix: M0OIC

Prefix 50 & 100: M0OIC

Get More Involved in FISTS-NA!

1. Submit an article, or articles, for the newsletter. We welcome all articles, photos, and experience levels. You don't have to be the great American novelist! Articles are lightly edited for typos and grammar.
2. Earn a free FISTS Club Key Patch when you make your first 10-minute CW QSO with any FISTS member on any band.
3. Volunteer! We are currently in need of an Activities Manager and a Sprint Manager.
4. Submit suggestions about how FISTS-NA can be more relevant in 2021 and beyond.

WELCOME NEW FISTS AMERICAS CHAPTER MEMBERS

Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C	Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C
K4GMV	21330	Karl	NC	KO4RMX	21370	Bill	FL
KF7WX	21331	Chris	WA	K4EES	21371	Ken	AL
KC8RKL	21332	Joe	OH	WA7VVV	21372	Jim	AZ
KO4UHE	21333	Rick	KY	KC3RPP	21373	Robert	PA
KO6OT	21334	Steve	CA	W1OL	21374	Guy	MA
W9KCM	21335	Charles	IL	KG5JST	21375	James	OK
CO6DE	21336	Enildo	DX	KE4IP	21376	Bryan	GA
KK7BKH	21337	David	W	WB3BAB	21377	Bob	PA
AJ7M	21338	John	WA	AG4NT	21378	Stephen	TX
KA1CPR	21339	Wayne	MA	KC2WAN	21379	Phil	NJ
AB9NE	21340	Drew	WI	KØPK	21380	Paul	MN
KB1WLE	21341	Paul	NH	WØAD	21381	Paul	MN
VE6VIC	21342	Victor	AB	KØUW	21382	Club	MN
KC3SHI	21343	Paul	DC	WN5C	21383	Samuel	OK
KC3MVP	21344	Jeff	P	KC8KYV	21384	Randy	WV
KI5NIL	21345	Perry	TX	AG5GW	21385	Keith	LA
N6SAN	21346	James	CA	KD8JIP	21386	Fred	MI
W7HLO	21347	Dale	WA	NG7I	21387	Patrick	WA
KA7HOS	21348	Russ	U	W1MET	21388	Jake	ME
WB3FBL	21349	Stuart	WV	K1GER	21389	Haoming	TX
N3MKS	21350	Michael	P	W8HFZ	21390	Timothy	OH
W4TUC	21351	Thomas	FL	AJ4VX	21391	Richard	GA
KG3I	21352	Doug	PA	KI7MWA	21392	Gordon	WA
KEØLIB	21353	Matthew	I	KR8T	21393	Rick	MI
KC3CRU	21354	Matthew	PA	WB8FRV	21394	Dave	OH
ABØAA	21355	Steven	CO	N7RGE	21395	Jim	WA
W4LLS	21356	Gregory	GA	W9JRM	21396	Jim	IL
NØKNS	21357	Jeffrey	MO	KE8TPJ	21397	Stewart	MI
AD8BB	21358	James	OH	VE3OLP	21398	Mark	ON
KI5RNJ	21359	James	TX	AC4NY	21399	Joe	AL
AIØC	21360	Bill	CO	K9YI	21450	Alan	FL
WB8UJB	21361	Robert	MI	PY2OT	21451	Rod	DX
NC7K	21362	Jeffrey	AZ	W4TOL	21452	Stephen	SC
KM4LRH	21363	Dan	MS	WØVQ	21453	Geoffrey	WA
XE1QLW	21364	Jose	DX	K4JTP	21454	John	NC
N3UI	21365	Richard	OR	KB4SYE	21455	Randy	GA
KA3QPO	21366	Robert	PA	KO4SEU	21456	David	VA
W7BC	21367	Richard	OR	KA5BCM	21457	James	TX
KD3Y	21368	Anthony	NC				
K2CQX	21369	Eric	NJ				

(continued on page 7)

New Members (continued)

Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C
WB0ZPW	21458	Michael	KS
NR5N	21459	Donald	WV
N4ELF	21460	William	TN
KI4ABS	21461	Eric	SC
N4ZDA	21462	Michael	VA
N5EEW	21463	Elijah	TX
N1DCH	21464	David	MA
WA8TJC	21465	Charles	OH
KY4IF	21466	William	FL
W1DXG	21467	Club	MA
NF5U	21468	Jerry	TX
AB4QL	21469	Barry	A
K1FMJ	21470	Sean	TX
W2JV	21471	Peter	NY
KD4ZFS	21472	Jon	AL
K2EAG	21473	Matthew	NY
NG7V	21474	Ron	ID
W6LEN	21475	Jess	CA
KB5NJD	21476	John	T
AD0WB	21477	Mike	CO
WA9AZA	21478	John	W
KI7PBR	21479	Gary	AZ
W3MAM	21480	Dave	M
WI3X	21481	Dane	PA
W6KJB	21482	David	TX
K9BFF	21483	Mason	IL
N2PDK	21484	Andrew	FL
N5PT	21485	Paul	O
K9RDU	21486	Rusty	NC
KO9RUB	21487	Nathan	NC
KB1ND	21488	Ron	SC
WA4JK	21489	Jerry	AL
KC3PBY	21490	John	PA
KI4ZHE	21491	Jack	K
KG2JF	21492	Gerald	NY
W4QQI	21493	Jim	V
W6RIF	21494	Reed	VA

Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C
KS0CW	21495	Kevin	S
W6UA	21496	Jack	CA
KB6HCK	21497	Carl	CA
K0AWG	21498	Andrew	IAE

November 19, 2021–February 28, 2022

What's Your Story?

Do you have a story to tell? Members would love to hear how you got interested in ham radio. Did someone mentor you as a child? Did you learn it in the service? What is an interesting experience you had using Morse Code? What is your favorite key/rig? Do you have an interesting QSO you'd like to tell members about? Or photos to share?

Send your stories/photos to keynote@fistsna.org.

NOTICE

- **All Sprint Events have been cancelled until further notice. We are in need of a Sprint Manager. If you might be interested, please email: Joe Falcone fistsstore@fistsna.org**
- **The "Get Your Feet Wet" third Sunday events have been cancelled until further notice.**

Counterfeit FIST?

James Whitfield, N5GUI

I am looking for information about a radiotelegraph operator that could mimic the sending style of other operators. The closest my internet searching has come so far is a reference that during WWII British intelligence services were able to identify radio traffic as being from German radiotelegraph operators. The reference did not provide details; therefore, identification might have been made with direction-finding techniques or perhaps by the structure and format of the messages. Even though I am not a CW op, my amateur radio experience leads me to believe that a lot of the identification was by recognition of individual radio telegrapher's sending style and rhythm. In other words, each op's distinctive "fist." I consider this to be the equivalent of each operator's accent when they speak in the language of Morse Code. Just as there are people that can imitate the accent of others, I am seeking information about radiotelegraph operators that could imitate the "fist" of other ops.

Recently, I was reminded of a story that I read, probably between 1960 and 1964, in a magazine, possibly *The Saturday Evening Post*. One of the characters in that story had been a radiotelegrapher on a German U-boat, or possibly a German raider. This telegrapher had the ability to mimic the "fist" of other telegraphers. This talent was used to lure Allied ships into traps. The example that I remember from the story was that they were in waters off South Africa when a transmission was received from a nearby ship. This German radiotelegrapher identified the message as sent by an Afrikaner, then the German replied pretending to be another Afrikaner.

At the time, I assumed that this part of the fictional story was based on real events and people from WWII. Unfortunately, I have not found

anything to confirm that long ago assumption. Is there someone in FISTS who can give me information relating to a fist mimic? Even giving me a hint about where else I might go looking would be helpful.

And if you are curious about the story I read, I enjoyed it then, but today I would say it got rather far-fetched. A bad guy is obsessed with finding a lost island in the Antarctic Ocean where the U-boat was beached late in WWII. Bad guy believes the island has rich deposits of cesium, which will make the bad guy very, very wealthy. That part of the story is fine even now, but the bad guy had blue skin from previous exposure to cesium.

My 10,000 Day CW/QRP Streak

John Shannon, K3WWP

Every day, from August 5, 1994 through December 20, 2021, I made at least one CW/QRP QSO. The rigs included a homebrew transmitter, a Kenwood TS-570, a Kenwood TS-480, an Elecraft K2, KX1, and KX3. All set at a power level of 5 watts or less output. The antennas included an end-fed random wire on 160m through 30m, a flat top inverted vee on 20m, a vertical dipole on 12m, 15m and 17m, a slanted dipole on 10m and a rotatable dipole on 10m.

I made a total of 72,190 QSOs with 20,098 unique stations during the 10,000 days. 24,098 of these QSOs were DX from 224 countries. The most worked DX country was Germany with nearly 2,000 QSOs. By band, the number of QSOs ranged from 19,279 on 40m and 15,459 on 20m down to just 28 on 60m and 39 on 6m.

(continued on page 9)

CW/KQRP Streak News Item (continued)

I'm committed to continuing the streak until something beyond my control stops it. You can read more about me, QRP, and CW at my web site: k3wwp.com.

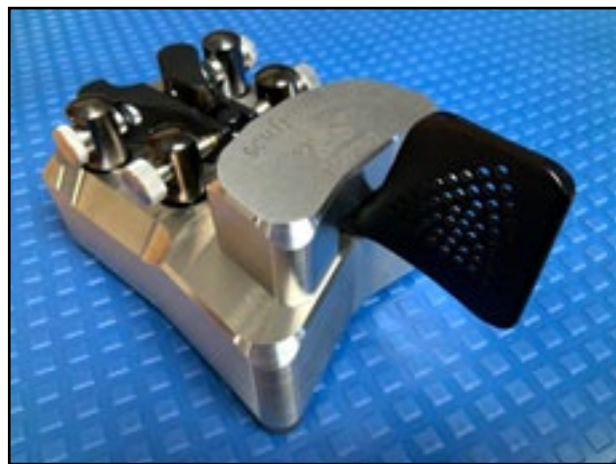


Photos

NU1N's Favorite Keys



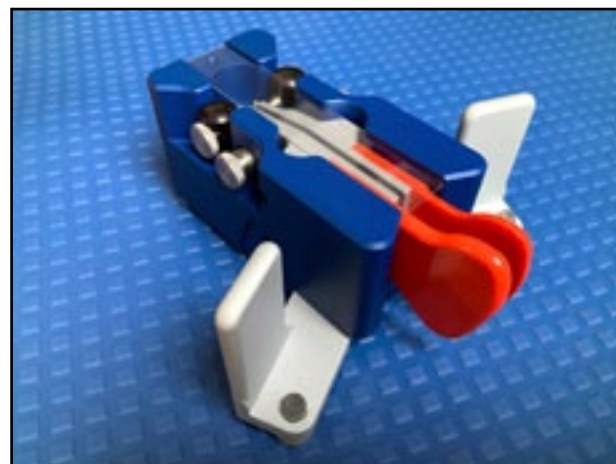
Courtesy of NU1N



Courtesy of NU1N



Courtesy of NU1N



Courtesy of NU1N