

# The KeyNote



Newsletter of the Americas Chapter, FISTS CW Club—The International Morse Preservation Society  
Issue 4, 2023

## Your Origin Story

Bryan Bergeron

One of my earliest memories is sitting under a tree with my 90 year old great-grandfather, reading to him about the rings of Saturn. It was from the first book of a children's encyclopedia—the only book we owned at the time. It was the “A” book of the encyclopedia series, including, of course “Astronomy”. It was one of those books you get free for spending \$25 or \$30 on groceries at a Winn Dixie. The follow-up books, sequenced over the next 25 weeks, were offered at \$5 or \$6. My parents never bought those books. Growing up in rural Louisiana, where hard, physical work that paid the bills was valued over reading and thinking about the stars, there was little pressure to look further than preparing to enter the work force. The males were expected to work the oil fields as welders and roustabouts and females were taught home making skills.

And yet, I turned out to be a nerd of sorts. I loved science. I couldn't get enough of it. I lived for the next issue of Scientific American in my town library. I found a tattered copy of the ARRL Handbook in that library and I was instantly hooked on amateur radio. I bought a 33-1/3 rpm LP record from Radio Shack and learned the morse code one summer. I had a job at Radio Shack repairing consumer electronics and then with my commercial FCC license, I worked with the offshore telephone company building and repairing microwave mux systems—at the age of 13. Fast forward through high school, college, medical school, and then teaching at Harvard

Medical School and MIT for 35 years. I was even on the wait list for mission specialist with the space shuttle program—until Sally Ride's tragic death in '83.

In retrospect, I owe everything to my mentors and teachers. But the start of it all was my great grandfather's desire to learn and talk about worlds that he would never visit. Even at his age, he was a hard worker, keeping a plot of land producing all of the fruit and vegetables that we could eat. But he took time to sit under that tree with me and contemplate the cosmos and, I suspect, given his age, his own origin story.

We all have origin stories. What's your story? What's the point in your trajectory that you can point to where everything changed?

73, Bryan, NU1N

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“When you've worked a FISTS, you've worked a friend.”

# INFORMATION PAGE

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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 KeyNote*. 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](mailto:awards@fistsna.org)  
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

## Club Call, KN0WCW

“Vacant”

If interested email to:

Joe Falcone, N8TI, [store@fistsna.org](mailto:store@fistsna.org)

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

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, [membership@fistsna.org](mailto:membership@fistsna.org)  
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

## FISTS Store Manager

Joe Falcone, N8TI, [store@fistsna.org](mailto:store@fistsna.org)  
9880 Musch Road, Brighton, MI 48116

## Activities Manager

“Vacant”

If interested email to:

Joe Falcone, N8TI, [store@fistsna.org](mailto:store@fistsna.org)

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

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, [webmaster@fistsna.org](mailto:webmaster@fistsna.org)  
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

## Code Buddy Volunteers and Buddies

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

## FISTS Sprints

### Ashley Lambe, KX4ASH

E-logs to [sprintlogs@fistsna.org](mailto:sprintlogs@fistsna.org)

Mail Logs to: FISTS Sprint Logs

4305 Roundwood Ct.

Indian Trail, NC 28079

## The KeyNote Newsletter

Bryan Bergeron, NU1N, [keynote@fistsna.org](mailto: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](mailto:keynote@fistsna.org)**

## The KeyNote

The Newsletter of the Americas Chapter of FISTS

Issue 4, 2023

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Send articles to:

[keynote@fistsna.org](mailto:keynote@fistsna.org)

Production: Sandra Lindemann

## Wintertime Radio

By Joe Falcone, N8TI

Happy Holidays everyone!

I think that one of the best times for Ham Radio is the Winter Holiday season. I imagine that is because the Holidays bring a person back to when things seemed simple and communication by radio was something unique and magical. Not everyone back then had the ability to communicate by radio waves to far off places without using the telephone and paying a large phone bill.

Perhaps more important is the fact that the Winter weather, with its early nights and accompanying snow and storms, just makes getting next to a radio that is giving off some heat and light all so much more mysterious. The noise seems a little less during the Winter without the lightning storms of the Summer.

Then, there is the sweet sound of Morse code coming through the speaker or headphones wherever you tune on the bands. The Holiday season is a time where most people

take some time off from work and so there is much more activity during the daytime than is normal during a work week.

A lot of us will receive gifts of radio equipment if we are lucky. We will get to open the box, glance at the instruction booklet and start to figure out how to hook things up so we can get on the air with our new equipment. We might even try some antenna work, even though the temperatures will be low.

A lot of people will get out the the parks and try to make Parks on the Air or Summits on the Air contacts. The new CW QRP radios are not that expensive and seem to run forever on a battery. On top of it all, we can now purchase Ham Radio equipment from practically anywhere in the world through the use of websites and credit cards.

If you have not been on the air lately, please turn on your radio between Christmas and New Year's Day I think you will be surprised at the activity that is now on the CW portion of the bands. Best Wishes to everyone.

73, de Joe, N8TI

## FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

Congratulations to all who earned operating awards from Aug 15, 2023 to Nov 14, 2023.

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:

KE0ZUW John—QSO with K6DF  
W7DOG Thomas—QSO with KK7XV  
W0BZ Daryl—QSO with WA9SWW

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 get out your favorite key and get on the air. You can also use the free “Log Converter” program to track your club awards, it’s also a good general 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 Sept 4, 2023 to version 4.4.2. If you are using a version older than this please update your program as older versions will not work properly due to a recent server update.**

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:

<https://www.fistsna.org/awards.html>

If you have any award questions or suggestions, send e-mail to me at:

[awards@fistsna.org](mailto:awards@fistsna.org)

*Happy Holidays and Wishing you good DX during 2024.*

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

### FISTS AWARDS ISSUED:

**Aug 15, 2023–Nov 14, 2023**

**Basic Century:** WQ1C, MM0UMH, M0NGN, G4WPS, CO6DE, G0FOZ, M0SDB

**Silver Century:** MM0UMH, GW0KRL, G4DNP, M0NGN, CO6DE

**Gold Century:** VA4ADM

**Millionaire Award:** MM0UMH, M0SHM, M0NGN, G0LLX, CO6DE, G0FOZ

**2 Million Award:** WQ1C, MM0UMH, M0NGN, CO6DE

**3 Million Award:** GW0KRL, G4DNP, M0NGN

**4 Million Award:** M0NGN

**5 & 6 Million Award:** VA4ADM

**7 Million Award:** AF5Z

**9 Million Award:** PA7RA, I5ECW

*(continued on page 7)*

## FISTS AWARDS (continued)

**10 Million Award:** W7ZDX

**12, 13, 14 & 15 Million Award:** G4MLW

**16 Million Award:** K6DF, G4MLW

**17 Million Award:** K6DF

**20 Million Award:** NP3K

**Spectrum 40M:** G4PRL, MM0UMH, CO6DE

**Spectrum 20M:** M0NGN, VA4ADM

**Perpetual Prefix:** M0NGN

**Perpetual Prefix 50, 100, & 150:** PE1EEC



## JAN. 1, 2021 CHANGES TO AMERICAS CHAPTER MEMBERSHIPS

All Americas Chapter memberships will be dues-free.

- Expired memberships were changed to Life memberships on Jan 1, 2021.
- Current paid memberships that expired were changed to Life memberships on their expiration date.
- All New Memberships received since April 2, 2020 are entered as Life memberships.

Details about printed/mailed newsletter subscriptions appeared in Issue #4, 2020 of the *KeyNote*, which is available on the FISTS website at:

[www.fistsna.org/publickeynotes.php](http://www.fistsna.org/publickeynotes.php)

### 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](mailto:keynote@fistsna.org).

# WELCOME NEW FISTS AMERICAS CHAPTER MEMBERS

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Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C	KL7VO	22280	Philip	NY
KQ4ASH	22246	Renata	SC	KA4BAS	22281	James	FL
AA4QW	22247	Brian	NC	WB0RLJ	22282	James	NE
KD8TO	22248	Tom	OH	K6IT	22283	Erik	CA
N9SS	22249	Dave	IL	KZ4AP	22284	Kenton	GA
K4LFL	22250	Mark	NC	K4EAK	22285	Edward	GA
KB2WZW	22251	Dwayne	NY	NA4DL	22286	Danny	TN
N1HOB	22252	Paul	OK	LU4DIS	22287	Eliseo	DX
KG0RN	22253	Steve	CO	VA7NMD	22288	JP	BC
W8HOG	22254	Gerald	OH	KK7CAW	22289	Jason	WA
AA0AJ	22255	Doreen	MN	XE2I	22290	Jose	DX
K2PZB	22256	Javier	FL	KA2AFS	22291	Henry	NY
KK7OAI	22257	Daryl	ID	N7WI	22292	Tom	WA
N7KV	22258	Kevin	WA	NE0J	22293	Richard	NE
K4IG	22259	John	SC	WA4ELW	22294	Ernest	TN
KE6SRN	22260	Carol	CA	WD3DX	22295	James	PA
CE7EMU	22261	Eduardo	DX	W5TES	22296	Thomas	TX
W4AZA	22262	Foster	AL	AC9GT	22297	Dan	MI
N4HNO	22263	John	NC	KD8MXE	22298	David	OH
PY1FQ	22264	Claudio	DX	AC7LF	22299	Claudia	ID
W7DOG	22265	Thomas	AZ	KB4N	22300	Joe	FL
W0GIB	22266	Craig	MN	NH6O	22301	Robert	HI
AK4SL	22267	Michael	GA	W0BZ	22302	Daryl	CO
KS7MC	22268	Club	AZ	K6AVS	22303	Troy	CA
K4RCF	22269	Steve	KY	N5PKR	22304	Nathan	AR
KO6AGW	22271	Allen	CA	NK3H	22305	Mitchel	AZ
ZP9MCE	22272	Manuel	DX	WA3VYP	22306	Roger	PA
WB0HTW	22273	Carl	MO	NF6G	22307	Rick	CA
VE7AXI	22274	Antonio	BC	KC3MAL	22308	Stuart	DE
AD5HC	22275	Brian	TX	WB6QCS	22309	Bert	CA
KJ5CQT	22276	Michael	TX	N0STP	22310	Peter	MN
VA7MMW	22277	Monty	BC	N7YTF	22311	Scott	UT
KD9VQD	22278	Igor	IL	K7ISM	22312	Jack	AZ
KJ5CVN	22279	Michael	TX				

## Silent Key List

Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C
WA2DAC	4621	Lynn	NY
WA2MPV	5112	Buddy	NJ
WA8KOQ	5682	Bave	TN
WA8ZGL	6337	Tom	OH
WA4EEZ	10033	Leslie	FL
WA8REI	10077	Kenneth	MI
WA8JBG	10427	Ed	OH
WA8BXN	10753	Mike	OH
WA3GYW	10795	Frank	PA
K8CCE	11168	Duane	MI
W5JH	11619	Jerry	AZ
WA8SZT	12098	Chuck	OH
WA5QAI	12190	Cy	AR
WA7ETH	13518	Hugh	WA
WA6NKM	13792	George	CA
WA4GIB	14292	Harold	SC
WA4SSM	14790	Chas	NC
KU4GW	16001	Cliff	NC
WA8DHP	16438	Bruno	MI
WA2IUS	19883	Steve	NJ
WA8NJP	20442	Charles	OH

## Get More Involved in FISTS-NA!

1. Enter one of the quarterly Sprints. If you are a new ham, it is a great way to practice your Morse Code. You can get on the air, meet other club members, and have some fun!
2. 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.
3. Earn a free FISTS Club Key Patch when you make your first 10-minute CW QSO with any FISTS member on any band.
4. Volunteer! We are currently in need of an Activities Manager.
5. Submit suggestions about how FISTS-NA can be more relevant in 2021 and beyond.

# SPRINT INFORMATION

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Sprints will be held eight times throughout the year on the second Saturday and third Sunday in each of the following months: Feb., May, Aug, and Nov. Sprints will now run over a 24-hour period.

## OBJECTIVE:

To exchange specified information with as many FISTS members as possible using Morse Code only, and within the time frame stipulated. Sprints are a great opportunity for our newer members to get on the air, meet other club members, and have some fun! We encourage more experienced operators to please QRS to match the other operator's speed.

## PARTICIPANTS:

Any properly licensed amateur radio operator, FISTS member or non-member is invited to take part in the contest. At least one of the two stations in each QSO must be a FISTS member.

## DATES AND TIMES:

**SATURDAY SPRINT:** from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC on second Saturday in November.

**SUNDAY SPRINT:** from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC on third Sunday in November.

## BANDS:

Operation is limited to the following amateur bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz amateur bands. Look for other participants around the FISTS frequencies: 3558, 7058, 14058, 21058, and 28058 kHz. You may NOT work the same station more than once.

## ENTRY CLASSES:

There are three entry classes: QRO, QRP, and Club.

1. **QRO:** Over 5 watts to legal limit.
2. **QRP:** 5 watts output power or less.
3. **Club:** (regardless of power).

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 allowed.

## EXCHANGE:

The following information must be exchanged by both stations and shown in your log for each QSO to count as a valid QSO:

*FISTS members:* RST, S/P/C, first name, FISTS number. *Non-FISTS members:* RST, S/P/C, first name. (Enter "0" Zero if your logging program requires a power entry for non-members.) S/P/C = U.S. State/Canadian Province/DXCC Country

## DX COUNTRY STATUS:

U.S. states and Canadian provinces are those states and provinces that are contiguous and found within the North American continent. DX are those entities listed in the current ARRL DXCC publication, other than the above.

## MULTIPLIERS:

Each U.S. state (50) and Canadian province (13) counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked. Each DXCC country counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked. Canada and the USA do not count as DX multipliers

## BONUS POINTS:

If the submitted Sprint log has a total of 25 or more listed QSO's, a bonus of 250 points will be added to the final calculated score.

## SCORING:

Each QSO with a FISTS member: 5 QSO points. Each QSO with a non-FISTS member: 2 QSO points. Final score is total QSO points times the number of multipliers worked, then Bonus points are added.

## CERTIFICATES:

Certificates will be awarded to the first, second, and third place finishers in each Sprint for each Entry Class. End-of-Year Certificates will be awarded ONLY to FISTS members with the highest cumulative point totals in the QRO, QRP and Club categories for all Sprints at the end of the year. Certificate will be sent to the winners via email in PDF format.



## New Sprint Information (continued)

### LOG SUBMISSIONS:

All log entries must be received within 7 days after the Sprint to be considered valid. Logs not sent to the proper address will not be considered for entry. The logs will be spot-checked for accuracy and correct scoring procedures. All logs **MUST** contain the following information for entry:

1. Your name, call sign, mailing address, and FISTS Number if a member.
2. Club name and call sign if entry is for a club station.
3. Sprint worked—Date of the Sprint worked.
4. Entry class—QRO, QRP, or Club.
5. Number of FISTS members worked.
6. Number of non-FISTS worked.
7. FISTS number for FISTS QSOs.
8. List of multipliers.
9. Your claimed score.

An entry form is available here and on the FISTS website at:

[https://fistsna.org/pdffdocs/sprint\\_entry\\_form\\_rev2.pdf](https://fistsna.org/pdffdocs/sprint_entry_form_rev2.pdf)

### ELECTRONIC LOGS:

We will accept electronic logs in standard Cabrillo or ASCII Text File format. If you're not sure about your format, please contact the Sprint Manager before the contest entry deadline. E-logs are sent to:

[sprintlogs@fistsna.org](mailto:sprintlogs@fistsna.org) ONLY.

### PAPER LOGS:

Send log and entry form to:  
FISTS Sprint Log  
4305 Roundwood Ct.  
Indian Trail, NC 28079

# FISTS SPRINT ENTRY FORM

Check Sprint Entered: Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ Sprint Date \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Class: QRO \_\_\_\_\_ QRP \_\_\_\_\_ FISTS Club \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ FISTS # \_\_\_\_\_ Non Member \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If Club, Club Name, Call \_\_\_\_\_ FISTS Nr. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

SCORING:    Number of FISTS member QSOs:        \_\_\_\_\_ × 5 = Total [A] \_\_\_\_\_  
                  Number of Non-FISTS QSOs:        \_\_\_\_\_ × 2 = Total [B] \_\_\_\_\_  
                  Number of multipliers worked:        \_\_\_\_\_ = Total [C] \_\_\_\_\_

Add [A] to [B] and multiply by [C] to get your TOTAL CLAIMED SCORE = \_\_\_\_\_

----- **CIRCLE WORKED MULTIPLIERS** -----

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	
						AK					

Please enclose paper logs ONLY, photos, comments, ideas, etc., with your entry and mail promptly to:

**FISTS Sprint Logs**  
 4305 Roundwood Ct.  
 Indian Trail, NC 28079

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 sign \_\_\_\_\_

SOAPBOX COMMENTS: