

## APRIL NEWSLETTER 2006



Well, Doesn't time fly when your having fun?

Seems like only yesterday that I was compiling the last newsletter for you all.

Now, I don't want to go into waffle mode this month.

If I'm not careful, I'll have Paul, M0BMN commenting on the Ramblings of "Mad Bob" again on the FISTS Web site.

On to business.

Firstly the Activity ladder.

Ten logs received this month.

Welcome to Martin, IK2RMZ. Who has sent an entry this month.

Martin has been very busy with the WARC challenge,

(Working from two countries)

The EUCW QRS Party

And has still found time to enter the ladder

Here's the results table.

<b>CALL</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MARCH</b>	<b>APRIL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>G4LHI</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>G6GUN</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>M5ABN</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>M0BHA</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>OH7QR</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>M0DRK</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>2E0TEK</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>IK2RMZ</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>MX5HDF</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>G8XGQ</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>G0XAH</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>PA3AFF</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>

As you can all see, G4LHI is holding the lead again, but hotly pursued by G6GUN and M5ABN.

Now I have some important news regarding the WARC Challenge.

It has come to my notice that there are FISTS DX stations who are NOT aware of the requirement to send log returns in on a monthly basis.

And, after emails across the pond it would appear that its quite possible that there could be colleagues from FISTS who are participating in the G3ZQS challenge who are holding onto logs until the end of the year.

I've asked Nancy if she would put a paragraph in her publication informing our cousins of the requirement.

Indeed, Nancy herself was unaware of the requirement for a monthly return.

At this moment in time, depending on the feedback I get after Nancy has published the requirement for me, I am amenable to the idea of granting a short amnesty to colleagues to get them all sent to me for the previous months.

It then occurred to me that quite possibly there could be friends in FISTS EU who may be under the same impression.

So I'm asking you all who participate, if you are aware of anyone who is holding entries back till the end of the year to get in contact with me ASAP.

OK, on to the WARC results table.

Seems that the "Big Guns" have been firing salvos during April.

April has seen some of the highest monthly returns so far in the challenge.

Welcome to Kevin, KI4DEF who has joined us from Washington this month with a very good QRP entry, Kevin tells me that he enjoys WARC band operation with low power and is pleased to join the fray.

He sends a "Potted history" of his station details which makes interesting reading.

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Most QSOs were made with an Elecraft K1 at 5W. Other rigs used include an AT Sprint 2, often running off batteries, and a NorCal Sierra; all are kit-built rigs. The antenna has usually been an 88-foot wire doublet up 53 feet. For those not familiar with this antenna, it is one of antenna guru L.B. Cebik W4RNL's "top 5 backyard multiband antennas" (see Cebik's web site <http://www.cebik.com/fdim/fdim9.pdf> also <http://www.cebik.com/edz/88.html> ). I feed the antenna via a homebrew Z-match transmatch designed by Charlie Lofgren W6JJZ--his modified Z-match for 80-10m (see [http://www.njgrp.org/mbrproj/zmatch\\_original.html](http://www.njgrp.org/mbrproj/zmatch_original.html) ). The Z-match design is great: its inherently balanced output matches balanced lines without a balun, and unbalanced lines simply by grounding one side. Other antennas include a 40m resonant dipole, random length wires and a four-element collinear array for 15m.

By the way, a few personal details

I have been a ham for two-and-a-half years, and a FISTS member for about as long. I enjoy homebrewing QRP rigs and experimenting with wire

antennas. I operate all CW, all QRP, plus some milliwattling and

portable operations from hiking/camping trips and the North Carolina Outer Banks beaches. My favourite on-air activity is rag chewing; I am not much of a contester although I have come to enjoy the occasional low-key, short contests such as the FISTS Sprints and the North American QRP CW Club (NAQCC) Sprints. I regularly operate the FISTS USA National club call, KN0WCW, as well as local FISTS club calls W4FFF (FISTS Club of North Carolina) and newly-organized N4ENC (Eastern NC CW Club). This challenge is right up my alley, as 30m is my favourite place of refuge during busy contest weekends.

Thanks again for your work on this challenge. I hope to hear you on the bands!

vy 73, Kevin KI4DEF (FISTS #10620)

Kevin H. Miller  
Washington, NC, USA

Lets hope that we hear Kevin working KN0WCW and W4FFF and of course his own call in the future.

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Dr. Martin Zurn, IK2RMZ who has put in a very good return for this month.

Some of you may be aware that Martin originally hails from Germany but now resides and works in Italy.

He does return to his homeland when commitments allow and has retained his call DL1GBZ. Martin was active with both calls in the WARC Challenge during April and has put in impressive returns with both calls for April.

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It seems that K4UK's story of /p operation to and from the golf course last month has stirred one or two comments from you all.

The most common one heard was

"I can imagine the authorities over here allowing it to happen"

A comment from G4LHI is worthy of a mention.

"Very interesting info from Stan & the /M operation. In the past when condx were good on 20m, I had regular QSO's with Tom AA1NZ/m in NH, Fists Nr 4725, on his way home from work, really enjoyed the quite lengthy chats, his paddle key was strapped to his knee & he told me to qualify for the Fists Mobile Award you had to be actually mobile, if you stopped in a lay-by etc it did not count. Don't think I will attempt that Award hi hi."

Before I show the results table for the WARC Challenge, I want to respond to enquiries from participants regarding holidays/vacations etc.

Q. "Will I still be able to participate in the challenge from Anytown/Anywhere I'll be there on holiday/business etc for X amount of days/weeks"

A. "YES!! Where you operate from is not an issue at all. Again, I must stress that this is not a contest in any way.

It's a leisurely challenge to promote activity on these underused bands and hopefully you'll meet members and strike up new friendships"

Here's the latest WARC table results

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MULTIESMASTER	CALL	PWR
K4UK	57	93	110	172	75	32400	K4UK QRO
G4LHI	77	78	88	125	25	9200	G4LHI QRO
G3ASG	0	26	133	196	17	6035	G3ASG QRO
IK2RMZ	0	0	9	237	19	4674	IK2RMZ QRO
G0UQF	20	5	50	0	10	750	G0UQF QRO
OH7QR	18	25	31	30	6	624	OH7QR MIXED
M5ABN	23	20	18	20	7	420	M5ABN QRO
G0XAH	0	0	26	23	4	196	G0XAH QRO
KI4DEF	0	0	0	27	7	189	KI4DEF QRP
DL1GBZ	0	0	0	62	3	186	DL1GBZ QRO
G6GUN	22	8	0	0	4	120	G6GUN QRO
GX2HDF	0	6	4	5	2	30	GX2HDF QRP
2E0TEK	23	0	0	0	1	23	2E0TEK QRO
G8XGQ	6	0	0	0	1	6	G8XGQ QRO

Finally.

Thanks to all for your best wishes with the house move and in reply to comments

“Hope everything went smoothly”

Er, no it didn't I think everything that could go wrong went wrong. (Hi)

But that's another story.

73 for now, thanks for your input.

As ever, its you folks who make the news for the “Newsletter”

If you've anything for inclusion lets hear from you.

Keep

“Bashing the brass”

Robert, M0BPT #5576.



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