

BRASSPOUNDER

April 2007



For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge

Welcome to the April edition.

Not a lot to report this month. the lovely weather has had folk abandoning the radio for garden duties and soaking up the sun. Band conditions been marginal to say the least!

Many comments on the deep QSB that members have been experiencing. The EUCW QRS Party sponsored by FISTS has had better support than it did last year, the number of entrants have increased which is very pleasing. I'm in the process of checking the logs received already. If you did participate, don't delay get your log off to me as soon as possible.

You may remember in the previous edition of Brasspounder, that I made you aware of the 100th QSO that took place between Erkki, OH7QR#8318. And Peter, G4LHI#2219 during the Mixed Key Week, Erkki commented on the 62 minute QSO that took place between them during the 100 QSO's. I mentioned that surely this must be a record for QSO's amongst FISTS members...Unless, of course, you know different. I've had a reply from Stan, K4UK.

Last night I had an enjoyable 46 minute rag chew with Mike, K8XF on 30 Meters. I keep a log of Rag Chews on the WARC bands and I've got a total of 62 QSO's on them which have lasted 30 minutes or more.

When I went to log it, I found I had a QSO with Bob, K4NSS # 6245 on April 10, 2003 on 30 Meters which lasted from 2344 to 0105 UTC - a total of 81 minutes. And a QSO with Lee, N0IK # 8562 on Nov 25, 2006 on 17 Meters which lasted from 1816 to 1932 UTC - a total of 76 minutes.

Since becoming a member of FISTS I have logged a total of 408 Rag Chews lasting 30 minutes or more. And the longest has been with Rob, KC8NYW # 7685 on Dec 29, 2001 on 40 Meters from 1316 to 1444 UTC - a total of 88 minutes. One nearly as long with Bob, K2QJ # 6163 on Jan 16, 2000 on 40 Meters from 0012 to 0139 - total of 87 minutes.

Another right at 80 minutes was with Joe, W4NKP # 8013 on 40 Meters on Aug 25, 2001 from 1229 to 1349 UTC.

I found 9 Rag Chew QSO's with Chas K8HBI # 5772 and 8 with Jesse, WS0L # 2938 and 8 with Vern, KU0S # 6554.

So you can see that I get a bit "long-winded" quite often - Hi!

I thought a 62 minute QSO was exceptional, but your 88 minute QSO is quite amazing Stan! I'm going to make the statement again. "This 88 minute QSO must be some sort of record between FISTS members"...Unless, of course, you know differently!

I've had some EUCW news from Maurice, F5NQL regarding the ON5ME EUCW memorial 160m Party held earlier.

Hi friends

The ON5ME, EUCW 160m 2007 results, are on line at
[:http://www.uft.net/articles.php?lng=fr&pg=411](http://www.uft.net/articles.php?lng=fr&pg=411)

See you in 2008, on January, 5 and 6th.

The Awards have been mailed at the end of April 2007. The cups will be this May.

73, Maurice A. Charpentier, F5NQL, one of the UFT organizer gang, sponsor of this EUCW event.

Also, some more news regarding a change of officers within UFT

Hi friends

The Union Française des Télégraphistes , UFT, (The French CW Society, member of the European CW Association), associated to the French IARU Society, the Union has elected its Officers for next year. (See below)

(President) : Vincent ORTEGA, F5MJV.

(Vice Presidents) : Norbert LAURENT, F6AXX & Maurice A. CHARPENTIER, F5NQL.

(Secretary): Bernard IRIGOYEN, F5HEW

(Treasurer) : Pierre GALLO, F6FXS

(Trustees) :Evelyne TERRAIL, F5RPB, Gérard GOURMELEN, F5ENF, Jean Jacques MAHIEUX, F5NKX ,Raymond TALAZAC, F6BQV, Francis FAGON, F6ELU, Gérard TOUSSAINT, F6ICG, Jean Claude MERCIER, F6JOE.

Finally, the new EUCW Communications manager (ECM) is; Alain DARVE F6ENO.

Lets take a look at this months post-bag from entrants and supporters of the activities.
From Peter, M5ABN.

Hi Robert,

Attached is my Ladder Log for April. Quite a bit of activity this month, although 80M was in pretty poor shape today (22/04/07). Still, managed to round up quite a few Fists members & thanks to all who made the effort to get on the air. Looking forward to May.

73, Peter M5ABN.

And from Peter, G4LHI

Hello Robert,

I attach my April Ladder claim, you will see I have only claimed for 8th April, had family event on the 22nd so could not get on radio, I guess my mate Peter M5ABN will be pleased & next month I'll try to to catch him up hi

Many thanks again for the Brasspounder mate, great stuff & what FB records our dear friend Erkki keeps, I knew about the 100th QSO, but the rest was all news to me hi & some record to hold, perhaps you may have sparked a little bit of interest there Robert & we may get some challengers??

Indeed, it did spark some interest Peter, as you'll have seen earlier K4UK has been able to top your 62 minute QSO with an 88 minute QSO. And I've made the statement again as you can see. I wonder if Stan's QSO can be beaten?

From Peter regarding the QRS Post code activity.

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim for the April QRS/Postcode event.

Still a few stragglers found, but not a great deal of enthusiasm I felt, I did not hear any one calling CQ Fists QRS, just got the replies to my calls.

One or two of the regulars around & again duplicated QSO,s (not claimed of course) There did not seem to be many about during the early sessions, in fact I abandoned these & did like the rest & enjoyed the sun in the garden.

My thanks to those guys (& dolls) that did take part & gave me points

From Chris, M0JRQ

Please find attached my logs for April - not much activity this month: Not too bad for the first two Sundays in April. Away in the south of England the week after Easter and back late on the Sunday; up on Easington Fell for the SOTA Southern Pennines Fun Day last Sunday. 27 QSO's in the rain from the summit but no FISTS contacts.

Perhaps May will be a big month for FISTS points.

40m has continued to be very interesting just after midnight and my FT-817 has performed well with contacts into North America, including Canada, as well as east, across Europe and into the Med earlier in the day. So good, in fact, that I have had to order another batch of QSL cards. 30m seems to have gone to sleep for the spring. 80m remains the only viable band for serious inter-G contacts. I can hear plenty of UK stations and near-Europe on top band but I can't load the current antenna.

From Stan, K4UK regarding the WARC band conditions

Did much better than March, although 17 Meters was very poor almost every day. Only made 3 contacts on 17 Meters during the month, twice with FG5FR and an enjoyable 10 minute Two-Way QRP contact with DK7FC who also was running a K2.

From Peter G4LHI with his report on the WARC Bands.

Hello Robert

Very sorry not to have heard you on the bands at the weekend, but I was listening as you will see by my WARC claim, not many Fists guys about apart from N2SLB, Bob from FN 31 (I had worked FN 31 before this year) & LZ1JZ, Tony from KN 21 on Sunday. My April WARC started off very slowly to start with, but as you will see by the end of the month it became more active & I was very lucky to obtain 187 points & 12 new squares for the year, hope it keeps like that for May. I think perhaps the fact that we had a EUCW QRS Party also running side by side for 5 days may have helped a little!! I only managed 3 QSO's with David, VK3DBD this month, very poor reports but managed the two way QSO's ok, but I did manage to get a slightly better report on 40 meters from him one morning when he suggested a QSY. I did hear Stan, K4UK once, (first time this year). This months other new squares from State Side were, Greg W2YYS. Roger K1TG. Bill WB8AJR. Jozef WB3MIC. Joe K0KES. Ed KG4W. Len W2LG. Frank N5SAN. & Allan KX2H. The other two new squares were from Bill VK3DOU & Tony LZ1JZ, very many thanks to those new Fists Club square guys & all the others although not new squares still give me two points for the Fists QSO's, but the bulk of my points are made up of one pointers from non Fists members, but we are certainly spreading the word & mention our Fists Club in all the QSO's with the hope that a few may be tempted to join us.

Lets take a look at the tables for the year so far. Not many entrants in the QRS this month.

Call	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	totals	Class
G4LHI	26	26	27	28									107	4 QRO
M5ABN	23	17	30	0									70	4 QRO
M0CDL	6	17	0	0									23	1 QRP
MM3WZL0		13	7	16									36	2 QRP+
M0JRQ	0	0	9	8									17	3 MIXED
G8XGQ	4	0	0	0									4	3 MIXED
2E0AYQ	2	0	0	0									2	1 QRP

Just Peter, Janet, and Chris keeping the QRS alive this month. Thanks for your support.

And on to the ladder.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
M5ABN	35	46	44	43									168
G4LHI	33	40	47	39									159
G6GUN	26	30	32	0									88
GM4WZL	0	0	21	35									56
IK2RMZ	4	11	20	19									54
2E0TEK	8	0	14	24									46
M0DRK	13	8	10	12									43
OH7QR	14	4	16	6									40
2E0AYQ	9	0	10	0									19
M0JRQ	0	0	4	2									6
G8XGQ	6	0	0	0									6
PA1SOP	6	0	0	0									6
PA3AFF	0	0	0	2									2

Welcome to PA3AFF who managed a couple of QSO's during the ladder period this month. Nice to hear him on the bands. John, GM4WZL #12515 has put in a good score for the month and taken himself into fourth place in the table with just two monthly returns! Well done to you John!

Last, but certainly not least, is the WARC activity.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	MULTI	MASTER	PWR
F2YT	431	575	0	0									1006	70	70420	QRO
G4LHI	149	131	119	187									586	32	18752	QRO
K4UK	55	99	30	97									281	57	16017	QRP
IK2RMZ	106	73	91	147									417	32	13344	QRO
OH7QR	59	68	115	30									272	22	5984	QRO
W4YE	26	28	14	42									110	14	1540	QRO
KA3NZR	5	24	7	27									63	14	882	MIXED
K4ORD	4	20	21	16									61	12	732	QRP
2E0TEK	16	0	23	16									55	5	275	QRO
DL1GBZ	0	0	0	46									46	3	138	QRO
W4FCR©	0	2	1	0									3	1	3	QRO

Some good returns from participants this month, lets hope that the bands will improve over the next months and we'll see some big scores!

As usual, that's about it from me for the month.

73.

Keep bashing the brass!



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