

BRASSPOUNDER

April 2011 Issue 61

As I prepare BP for publication, many of us have enjoyed the recent weather conditions.

April is the first month of the spring season of the FSA. And I'm very pleased to receive a new entry from a FISTS EA member! Namely Nao, JO3HPM. I look forward to receiving logs from other chapters of FISTS in the coming months.

As ever; I'm pleased to receive reports from you all with your entries. I'm looking through the EUCW QRS entries received, at this moment not many entries received; let's hope that more will arrive at MOBPT in the coming days.

Let's take a look at reports/comments received.

From Graham. G3ZOD.

Hi Rob. I wasn't able to make it on the air for the Ladder on 10th April due to being with the FISTS gang at the NARSA Norbreck Rally in Blackpool. Another great day and glorious weather to go with it. While there, I finally gave in and

purchased a Czech straight key, which I'm very pleased with - the movement has an extremely nice quality feel to it that my other straight keys don't have.

I did make it on the air for both the 24th April Ladder sessions, but conditions were not great and I think being Easter Sunday, there weren't many folk about.

During April I've been spending some quality time with my soldering iron (well, aside from when it gave me a couple of burns!) so my Four Seasons entry is a little "thin" this time. I've been having a lot of fun building some inexpensive SDR (Software Defined Radio) kits. The photo shows a tiny 40m receiver. Appearances are deceptive though - the reverse side has three surface mount integrated circuits and some capacitors on it.

73 de Graham G3ZOD FISTS #8385.



From Erkki. OH7QR

Hello Robert,

Please find attached my log for April. All QSO's were on 20M, I sent some CQ's on 80M no answers, couldn't even hear anyone. Thanks to all for the QSO and I hope to meet you all on the next Ladder.

73 de Erkki OH7QR

From Peter. G4LHI

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim & report for April Activity Ladder.

Very many thanks to all members & non members who persevered the conditions to try & make the Ladder Activity again this month, but the conditions on 80m particularly, were rough this month on both days, my score was very poor & I do hope that others may have had better luck & may perhaps top the list this month, good luck. Phil, M6PHL, even went out portable, so hope you did well Phil?

All my thanks to the stalwart members & non members that are always there in spite of the rough conditions.

I worked two non members that seemed very interested in our activity & may?

Join us as members one of these days?

For the month I had 12 QSO's for 20 points.

Looking forward to June Ladder & perhaps 80m may be kinder to us all? Keep bashing the brass.

73 de Peter G4LHI # 2219

From Derek. MODRK

Hi Robert.

Very little to show for the April Ladder. Conditions very poor. Tried to improve antenna layout but only seemed to have made things worse, hi.

Many thanks to the stations that I've worked. Hope things get better during May.

Had so little rain here, only a very few millimetres in the past two months.

Take care; see you next month, 73 for now, Derek, MODRK

From Piet. PA3AFF

Hello Robert,

for the ladder I was present in each timeslot, but on Easter Sunday both the 40m band in the afternoon as 80m band in the evening was very noisy with less

activity. Maybe because of the excellent 'summer' wx we all enjoyed!
Till the next time. 73 Piet PA3AFF, Fists 445

From Phil. M6PHL

Hello Rob

Hope you are well.

Here is my log for the April Ladder.

Conditions not very good on 80m this month in fact I found it virtually impossible on this band.

For the second Sunday I was Portable in Norfolk, sat enjoying the great weather in my caravan, and operating from my awning causing much interest from my fellow caravaners; and the site warden who told me about his mother being a CW operator in the Signals during WWII. This was my first ever venture being portable, using a Yaesu FT 847, Comet CHA250B, running just my allowed 10w. Local QSO's not the best on any band using a vertical antenna but had some great contacts further afield into Europe just using the key.

Thanks to the few of you I worked this month, hopefully see you all again in May.

73

Phil

M6PHL

Fists 14543

From Greg. G0DUB

Hi Rob,

I was really pleased to read the March Brasspounder, if only to see that I had finally got off the bottom of the ladder :-)

I could only operate on the second Sunday of the April sessions and even then the afternoon period was particularly hard work with only one contact made with Erkki OH7QR. The evening was much more successful and a good run of stations worked. Thanks for the points everyone!

73,

Greg. G0DUB #6095

Some reports from FSA entrants.

From Peter. G4LHI

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim & report for April Four Seasons Activity.

My summary for April, the first month of the second quarter of the FSA.

I managed 119 QSO's for a final score of 376 points, a little lower than last month, but very pleased so many guys were active. I was very pleased to work 4 new members, G0FEI, Vic, M0BTG, Gillian, OE3LHB, Heinz & M0CYR, Peter, QSL's will follow shortly, thanks again chaps.

The highlight for me was to hear & work David VK3DBD, twice & Roger K1GT, during the month how nice to find 17m & 30m opening up late evening & early morning to UK, hope that's a sign that things are improving?

Dear Erkki OH7QR, & I, of course ran out of time & reached our maximum score & 90 minutes early on the 29th, many thanks mate.

Very many thanks to all, members & non members who continue to make this FSA a very interesting & exciting event. Keep Bashing the Brass.

Looking forward to the bands opening up for us during the coming months & some god dx as well as local QSO's

73 de Peter G4LHI # 2219

Received from "Uncle Dick" SV0XBN on the 2nd of May

Dear Cousin Rob Twice Removed but re-instated.

A better month this time!

Relatives returned home and this allowed a bit more time on the bands. Put up a loop for 15m which seems to work quite well.

Could do with quieter Condx on 40m during the evenings, but then, couldn't we all!

A short month coming up, what with the UK trip taking up most of the time, but hope to add a few points during the last week.

Cheers fer nw es don't work too hard!

73

Uncle Dick... SV0XBN/9 (or G3URA from tomorrow for a few weeks!)

Thanks to all for your reports this month.

A warm welcome to Nao; JO3HPM (FISTS EA) joining us for the second quarter of the FSA. For the first time I think, three chapters of the FISTS organization are involved in an annual activity. I do hope that this trend will continue and perhaps

we will be able to boast that all chapters of the society will get involved in the coming months! I thank you all for your support.

On to the results tables, firstly the ladder.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	POWER
G4LHI	28	37	34	20									119	QRO
OH7QR	27	27	19	22									95	QRO
M6PHL	20	25	28	15									88	QRO
MODRK	0	22	19	10									51	QRO
G0DUB	4	16	17	11									48	QRO
PA3AFF	13	8	10	17									48	QRO
G3ZOD	5	18	18	4									45	QRO
G0BAK	9	24	6	0									39	QRO
2E0JYK	10	12	12	0									34	QRO
2E0TEK	17	12	0	0									29	QRO

And the FSA

CALL	APR	MAY	JUNE	TOTALS	CLASS	FISTS
G4LHI	376				A	EU
IK2RMZ	256				A	EU
OH7QR	239				A	EU
SV0XBN/9	234				A	EU
PA3AFF	138				A	EU
K4UK	83				A	NA
DL1GBZ/DR40AGCW	83				A	EU
JO3HPM	81				A	EA
DL1GBZ/DA2MORSE	42				A	EU
G3ZOD	6				A	EU
HB9DEO	13				A	

Finally, some awards news.

Congratulations to the following award winners:

Gary W4IHI, #13344 - Gold Century Award

Larry KA8HFN, #11631 - Platinum 500 Award

Roger K1TG, #10462 - USA Veteran Award

That's all from me for another month.

The EUCW QRS Week results will be available soon.

Till next time.

Keep well.

Keep pounding brass.

73.

MOBPT