

BRASSPOUNDER

December 2008



For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge

Welcome to the December edition.

So, here we are at the end of the activities for 2008. I'm sure the final results tables will be viewed with interest by all who look at BP. Participants and non participants alike.. Both the ladder and WARC activities have surprises in store for all concerned. But more about this later. Suffice to say, the rechecking of logs was in order, because of things being very close!

As I prepare BP for publication, It's 2009 and I hope you've all had a good festive period, and are getting back into the usual pattern of life...

MY APOLOGIES FOR A LATE BP. DOMESTIC MATTERS HAVE TAKEN PRIORITY FROM AMATEUR RADIO AND FISTS THESE PAST WEEKS...

I HOPE TO BE BACK TO SOME NORMALITY FOR NEXT MONTH. PLEASE SEND YOUR LOGS AS USUAL. IF BY ANY CHANCE BP DOES NOT APPEAR FEBRUARY, I WILL CONSOLIDATE THE FEBRUARY AND MARCH EDITIONS..

ANOTHER IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT. FROM THIS MOMENT, PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE VIA EMAIL TO

m0bpt@yahoo.co.uk or m0bpt@hotmail.com

THANKS FOR YOUR INDULGENCE. PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO ALL FRIENDS AND OTHER FISTS MEMBERS....

On to business. Firstly, the FIST of the year award received some nominees, albeit slow with folk waiting till the last moment before casting their votes.

I'm very pleased to announce that Peter Rosamond. G4LHI Fists#2219 has been awarded the accolade of "FIST OF THE YEAR" 2008. I'm sure that you'll all join me in congratulating Peter, a very worthy recipient of this award. The reasons from members who voted for Peter was his active fist on air and his almost tenacious publicity of the society to all he met on air during 2008. I can concur with this comment as many new members have said "I Worked G4LHI who introduced me to the society" also another reason raised by members, was his devotion to the mode of CW and his regular on air Morse practice nets in his locality...

Othe nominees included OH7QR for his /p operation activating different grid squares during 2008, and his readiness to publicise the society. And myself! Which I must say was a pleasant surprise. Heartfelt thanks to those who thought me worthy of such an accolade!...

Lets look at what went on during the final month of activities during 2008. Pleased to receive a statistical overview from IK2RMZ for his WARC Activity..

IK2RMZ FISTS WARC statistics for 2008

616 worked squares:

134 worked DXCC entities:

3B8 3DA 3V 4J 4L 4S 4X 5B 5H 5N 5R 5T 5X 5Z 6W 8R 9A 9G 9H 9J 9L 9M2 9X
A2 A4 A6 A7 AP BY CE9 CM CN CT CT3 CX D2 DL E7 EA EA6 EA8 EA9 EI EL ER
ES ET EU EX EY F FM FR G GD GI GJ GM GU GW HA HB HR HS HZ I IS J2 J3 J6
JA JY K KL KP2 KP4 LA LU LY LZ OE OH OH0 OJ0 OK OM ON OY OZ P4 PA PY PZ
S5 SM SP SV SV5 SV9 T7 TA TF TG TI UA UA2 UA9 UK UN UR V3 V5 VE VK VP2E
VP5 VP6 VQ9 VU XE XU YI YK YL YN YO YU Z2 Z3 ZC4 ZD7 ZD8 ZL ZS

30 meters:

3B8 4J 4L 4S 4X 5B 5R 6W 9A 9H 9X A4 A7 CE9 CT CT3 DL E7 EA EA6 EA8 EI
EL ER ES ET EU EX F G GD GI GM GW HA HB I IS J2 J6 JA K LA LU LY LZ OH
OH0 OK OM ON OY OZ PA PZ S5 SM SP SV SV5 SV9 T7 TA TF UA UA2 UA9 UK UN
UR VE VK VQ9 YI YL YO YU Z3 ZL ZS
80 DXCC entities 1025 QSOs (52%)

17 meters:

3B8 3DA 3V 4S 4X 5B 5H 5R 5T 5X 5Z 8R 9A 9G 9J 9L 9M2 A2 A6 A7 AP BY CM
CN CT CT3 CX D2 DL E7 EA EA6 EA8 EA9 EI ES ET EU EY F FM FR G GJ GM GU
GW HA HB HR HS HZ I IS J2 J3 JA JY K KL KP2 KP4 LA LU LY LZ OE OH OK OM
ON OZ P4 PA PY PZ S5 SM SP SV SV9 TA TG TI UA UA2 UA9 UK UN UR V3 V5 VE
VK VP2E VP5 VP6 VQ9 VU XE XU YI YK YL YN YO YU Z2 Z3 ZC4 ZD7 ZD8 ZL

113 DXCC entities 821 QSOs (42%)

12 meters:

3B8 5N 6W 9A 9G D2 DL E7 EA ER ES EU F G GD GI GW HA HB I LA LY LZ OH
OJ0 OK OM OZ PA S5 SM SP UA UA2 UA9 UR VQ9 YL YO Z3 ZD7

41 DXCC entities 111 QSOs (6%)

As ever a comprehensive overview from Martin.. Looking at his work rate on 12m, with just 6% of his total in 2008. And remembering comments during the year that 12m has been poor. Martin proves that 12m is active!

From Stan K4UK.

Was great to work ZL4PW for my first multiplier Down-Under and also GX0000 for my final grid multiplier for the year. Once again it has been great fun working the WARC bands this year. Do hope that more folks actively get in during 2009.

Keep up promoting Activities for us FISTS members.

73, Stan - K4UK

Glad you've enjoyed the WARC activity again in 2008 Stan. I will announce that this will be the final WARC activity for a while. I am going to give it a one year rest and may reinstate it as a bi-annual event in the future. I have something planned for 2010 which will give the membership a renewed interest.... More on this later in the year.

From Graham G3ZOD.

Hi Rob. Here's my WARC Submission (QRP: 5 watts)

No new multipliers this month, so the cumulative multipliers over the three months is 7. I had a short gap with no WARC or any other QSOs due to spending time putting my new K3 rig together, but longer term it's an investment in time! I'm staying with 5 watts for the WARC Challenge and also in general, but at least I can run a bit more occasionally if needed (i.e. the Ladder).

I've heard the occasional weak European station on 17m but no contacts this month. I know that folk have been working into the USA and Australia on 17m but I've heard not so much as a dit from outside Europe. I didn't even try 12m HI. However 30m has been very productive as always.

Many highlights, but a particularly pleasing contact was OH0GG in the Aland Islands who surprised me by responding to my CQ. In hunting his Locator, I found different ones on QRZ.COM and Hamcall. Since one of them put him in the sea, I thought it best to put the other one in my log!

Another one was with DL3SEU/QRP who runs 1 watt. I used 200 milliwatts for the complete contact, which is the lowest power one I've ever had (so far!).

Thanks to Martin IK2RMZ for being the first WARC station I've contacted four times in a month!

On that subject, I wonder what opinions people have about what is a respectable period to leave before going for "repeat" contacts without annoying folk? Obviously the four contacts per month makes it easy to judge for FISTS members in the WARC Challenge, but for others I'm not so sure. Calling CQ avoids this of course, but doesn't always get results.

Finally, thank you to all the members I've contacted during the Ladder and WARC Challenge, and an especially big thank you to yourself Rob for all your work on Brasspounder and the FISTS activities.

73 de Graham (Gra) G3ZOD FISTS #8385 Locator IO83WJ

Thank you for your kind words Gra.. Glad you're going to be active during 2009 with the activities in the calendar... I'm sure that all who worked you during 2008 within the society would like to say a big "Thank you" to you also....

From Erkki OH7QR

Please find attached my last logs of 2008.

I have made a brief statistics of my QSOs in both Ladder and Warc Band Challenge:

Ladder 2008:

Top 6 list:

G4LHI 18, G8XGQ 11, G6GUN 9, M0DRK 8, IK2RMZ 5 and G3ZOD 2 QSOs. Peter / G4LHI was kindly stand by on 14058 at 1400 UTC in the beginning of the first sessions. Of maximum of 24 QSOs we made 18, many thanks mate. It was always a pleasure to hear Peter calling on QRG.

Warc Band Challenge.

Peter head also here the list. We made 55 QSOs on 30M and one on 17M. Next are G6GUN 33, IK2RMZ 25, M0DRK 21 and G8XGQ 15.

The best band was 30M with 595 QSOs. On 17M I had 18 and on 12M only 2 QSOs.

The number includes also QSOs which I had from mobile. I activated 13 locator squares. G6GUN gave me 10 locators, many thanks Bob.

Many thanks to all for the QSOs during the past year. Looking forward to this year's events. Interesting will be the "Exchange your age week". Hopefully the sunspots are on their way back, this minimum has been uncommonly long.

Robert, many thanks to you for your great work with Fists events. I hope that more members will appreciate your efforts and come along.

73/88
from Erkki OH7QR and XYL Leena

A real pleasure to hear from you Erkki.. Thank you for your kind words.. Incidentally, when Erkki mailed to send his report and statistics. He was unwell with a bout of "Flu" So I hope you're feeling better now Erkki. Look forward to meeting you once again in 2009. Regards to yourself and Leena.

From Peter G4LHI

WARC Band Challenge December 2008.

Not quite as good a claim as some months, unfortunately just one multi for Dec, Heijo, EA8OM, Nr337 in IL18, but more QSO's & chats & points than Nov. I had 173 QSO's for 215 points. I did however manage more x 4 QSO's, one with a non member (thanks Dan) & 7 with members, thanks Bob, Derek, Erkki, Tony, Martin, Joe & David.

The bands did not seem to be very good for over the pond or down under again this month, but I did manage to find a few NA members & non members during a few openings, but the NA members had been worked before so no new grids, many thanks guys I did have one good DX with JA1LZR. Joe in Tokyo, unfortunately not fists. I also had three chats with UU9JX/MM, Oleg around the coast of Venezuela. CO8LY, Ed, also came in well a couple of times from Cuba. A45XR, Chris, Oman. VQ9LA, Larry, came back to me from a "pile up" in Chagos Islands (fists Nr 11671). KP2/NY6X, Naoki, St Croix, US Virgin Is, also in a "pile up".

That's about it for the 2008 WARC Band Challenge, once again very many thanks to all members & non members that gave me my score, & interesting chats during the year & look forward to enjoying the 2009 activities with you all, good hunting & A Very Happy & Healthy New Year to you all.

73/ 88 Peter (& Jean) G4LHI # 2219 IO92

As ever Peter. Thanks for a concise roundup of your activity during December 2008. The very best to yourself and Jean for 2009.

From Graham G3ZOD with his final Ladder report

Hi Rob. 14th December was a bit thin with just two contacts (both on 80m) despite a power boost from 5 watts to 25 watts.

28th December was much more of a success, with my personal best so far with five contacts, all on 80m. (I've set myself a New Year's resolution to aim to get at least six contacts in a session in 2009!) Conditions

Hope to work you on the bands in 2009.

73 Peter, G3JFS

Thanks for an interesting report and overview Peter. Always a pleasure to hear and receive items from you, as with all who send in band reports/statistics etc. Keep them coming! there wouldn't be a BP without them.

Lets look at the final results tables for 2008. The ladder can only be described as having a surprising ending for me. You'll see that the top two finished with an equal score for the year! after scrutineering the logs. I can confirm that this years ladder activity will be a joint 1st place between G4LHI and G6GUN... Congratulations to both. And congratulations to IK2RMZ for his 3rd place effort... Awards and certificates to the top three participants... and many thanks to all who participated in the event during the year! Your support is appreciated!

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DECE	TOTALS
G6GUN	22	34	43	37	43	40	36	35	32	38	13	43	416
G4LHI	30	25	37	32	36	37	35	34	36	33	37	44	416
IK2RMZ	15	33	18	24	9	17	25	25	15	2	5	12	200
M0DRK	16	10	18	15	17	10	11	13	11	25	21	19	186
OH7QR	14	27	7	14	14	21	15	9	12	23	18	8	182
G8XGQ	16	19	8	0	16	13	12	13	7	19	14	17	154
M0JRQ	24	13	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45
2E0TEK	0	0	0	0	21	0	12	4	0	0	0	0	37
G3ZOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	14	26
G0MRH	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
DL1GBZ0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

And the WARC Band activity final results table.. This too had surprises in store. After a final two month charge by IK2RMZ. He beat G4LHI into second place by a narrow margin! Congratulations to IK2RMZ and Comiserations to G4LHI who must be surprised to have been put into second place by a fine effort from Martin... And of course, Congratulations to FISTS NA member and supporter of our activities. Stan, K4UK for getting on the podium with an excellent third place score. Awards and certificates to all concerned in the QRO class. G3ZOD will receive the QRP certificate.. Congratulations to Gra for his excellent effort. I expect G3ZOD to be a force to be reckoned with during 2009 with his QRP operation..

CALL	TOTAL	MULTI	G-Total	PWR
IK2RMZ	2326	147	341922	QRO
G4LHI	2296	125	287000	QRO
K4UK	1169	142	165998	QRO
G6GUN	621	51	31671	QRO
W4YE	576	47	27072	QRO
OH7QR	819	32	26208	QRO
MØDRK	357	25	8925	QRO
KA3NZR	169	34	5746	MIX
G8XGQ	247	18	4446	QRO
W4FCR ©	122	31	3782	QRO
DL1GBZ/DP6M	208	10	2080	QRO
G3ZOD	242	7	1694	QRP
2E0TEK	95	12	1140	QRO
K4ORD	45	10	450	QRP
G0XAH	33	4	132	QRO
PA3AFF	25	5	125	QRO

Well, thats all from me for another year, as this goes live I expect most of you will be already be active in the activities. Dont forget to try the "Exchange your age week" in 2009.

As I've said before and never tire of mentioning the fact that the activity ladder, WARC Activity and others planned are an agreeable place to meet members, gain points for those who are working towards awards within the society... Who knows, you may become interested in joining the other regulars who remain active on a daily/weekly/monthly/yearly basis promoting the society. You will be warmly welcomed by all!

Till the next time. Take care of yourselves. Enjoy 2009. Again my apologies for such a late BP, and I crave your indulgence for the next few weeks...

Please remember the change of email(s) m0bpt@yahoo.co.uk or m0bpt@hotmail.com

I shall inform you if and when the email AD changes back to the blueyonder address.

Finally. I've been chatting via email to Deni. F5VJC who pointed out that my "Bashing the brass" signatory is somewhat incorrect and would prefer it if I replaced it with the much more understood "Pounding the Brass" as we are collectively known as brasspounders..

I bow to his observation and without going into a longwinded explanation of why I've always signed with "Bashing the Brass" I will change this forthwith to "Pounding the Brass"

So. from me. till the next edition of BP.

Keep well, Keep "Pounding the Brass"

73.

MOBPT



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