

BRASSPOUNDER

February 2008



For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge

Welcome to the February edition.

Another month rolls by, the phrase "Time and Tide wait for no man" Springs to mind.

From Peter. G4LHI.

Pretty quiet month for the ladder, albeit I was only active for the afternoon sessions each Sunday & do hope there are a few more members taking part during the other sessions & you get a lot of claims in. Perhaps some members this month are busy with the 21st Anniversary Activity. Very sorry I will not be taking a very active part in that, but be pleased to give points away as & when needed.

Sorry I did not hear you on the second session, but was nice to work you on the 10th & hope you found a few members to work? But you had visitors at the end of our QSO & had to go QRT, you were a good 599 with me & great to work you, many thanks again for the points.

As always nice to hear from you Peter. I must apologise for the hurried departure on the 10th, Family complete with grandchildren arrived earlier than expected. Grandson tugging at my trousers, granddaughter voiciferously making her presence known made me "Shut up shop" earlier than envisaged. I did manage a brief chat with Bob, G6GUN, also I heard Tony, G8XGQ closing with Brian GØGSY. Tony was very weak with me, but had a brief chat with Brian before contacting Bob and yourself. The 599 rpt was well received, thank you. lets hope I can make more time during the year to get on air.

From Chris. MØJRQ.

After the note accompanying my January log, saying that my antenna was blowing about all over the place and surviving the weather, it finally snagged a gutter, snapped and came down. In the gales I wasn't able to do any aerial work

outside. I managed to get a mini-doublet up in the loft but it is very short and performance even on forty metres is poor. I tried and failed to get a good match on eighty, ending up with just one contact on the first Ladder Sunday - just before eight o'clock in the evening and on 2m! After a week or so trying to get a fractal antenna for HF in the air - and discovering every pitfall there is in fractal antenna design and construction - I took advantage of the Spring-like weather in the middle of February: I got the end fed aerial back in the air. So far I've only been able to use the lower sections of the two poles so the antenna is about 5m off the ground now and still rather poor on 80m. I know there were a number of stations calling me this afternoon but, even after a couple of QRZs and 'agn pse' once or twice, they were still down in the noise and I couldn't copy them. So making five contacts on 80m this afternoon felt like a genuine achievement!

Until next time, 73. Chris M0JRQ

Sorry to hear of your tale of woe with the aerial system Chris. Lets hope this bit of unseasonal warm weather we're having will give you the time to repair the damage done by the gales. I notice (As do others) that the British Isles are becoming more and more windier each year. Incidentally, you'll notice the reference from Chris regarding his experimentation with fractal design aerials. I'll remind you that Chris runs the "ANTEXP" Group on Yahoo. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/antexp/> If anything aerial related interests you, join the NG and your input will always be greatly appreciated. Also, don't forget our own FISTS newsgroup <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fistscw/> A welcome is always assured at these two NG's. So if you're not already a member of one or both, consider joining.

From Peter. G4LHI.

Hello Robert,

Second month of 2008 gone, how quickly the time goes when you are having fun & I for one certainly do have fun on this WARC Band Challenge, to me it's the best of all your Fists Activity events of the year. It's an event that has no time limit as such and you can pop in & out as your time allows, sometimes you are lucky & find exotic DX or local stations on the bands, other times it may be dead, but always very exciting to see what you can find & if you are very lucky work! I have attached my claim for the February WARC Challenge & was very lucky to be in the right place at the right time for some very interesting QSO's including 5 nice new Fists Locator Squares for my score.

Was pleased to find, at 1534 on the last day of Feb, **9V1VV**, John, Fists Nr 8998, in **OJ11**, Singapore, I did work him in Oct last year, but a nice new square to help with 2008. The other four multies for Feb are, Matteo, **IZ1CLB**, **JN44**. Emanuele, **IZOETE**, **JN62**. Goeran, **SM0PMJ/QRP**, **JO99**. and Bill, **KA1RVM**, **FN42**. Very many thanks to these guys & also the other members & non members that gave me

a total score of 182 points for 157 QSO's during February. I have not heard Stan K4UK or David VK3DBD so far this year but do hope the band conditions improve during the year so we can get a few QSO's in the log again.

73. Peter. G4LHI

From Erkki. OH7QR.

Hello Robert,

At first many thanks for our QSO on 12th February on 20M. I was very pleased to meet you on band.

Please find attached my February logs. I found not many fists on Warc Bands but as usual I met Peter four times. And on both Ladder-days we had our regular QSO in the beginning of the 1st period. The 30M band seems still to be the best one, I had only few QSOs on 17M. I am planning to take a round trip via locator squares KP32, KP33 and KP43. I'm not sure if I'll make the trip on this month or in April.

We have now got a real winter. The snow covering is about 50 cm thick and the temp is now minus 8 degrees. Some minus degrees are better than plus in winter. It is nice to go out skiing when the snow is not wet and when the temp is not too cold. I have been skiing already many times and have made my own ski track (I have broad ski's and can easily ski on unbeaten snow) Today it was a nice sunny day and I took a 1:5 hours skiing trip.

73 Erkki



These images sent by Erkki to share with us his interests outside of Radio are excellent, and I thank him for taking the trouble to give us an insight of his enjoyment and his country, Finland. He goes on to say;

My ski track is only 5,5 km long. It is many times covered with new snow after nightly snowfalls and I have to make it again and again. But it is good exercise. Today it is

sunny day and it seems that my track is still left in the same state as it was yesterday. In the bag I have a thermos flask with hot tea and honey.

On Monday I tested my mobile antenna. It worked OK. In winter when the lakes are frozen over we have here a so-called "ice-road" over the Kallavesi-lake (big lake around Kuopio). It shortens our distance to Kuopio by 9 kilometres so that we have only 39 km to drive instead of 48. I parked my car by the side of the "ice-road" and had 4 QSOs on 20. The rig was FT-817 (QRP) with only 5 W output and the antenna my new C-Whip Mono (separate elements for each band). I had four QSOs on 14058: two to Italy, one to HA and one FISTS (G4OEC). On 30 and 17 metres I had no success. The wx was quite dull and it was snowing, so I didn't take any images. Next time I'll wait for better WX and will also have my FT-897 with me and with 100W the success will sure be better.

Also. I send here an image of myself with the pike which I captured with a lure on Saturday, 8-9-07 The weight is 3.2 kilos and length 70 centimetres.

I thank Erkki for sharing with us his other enjoyments, fishing and skiing. This IS what makes FISTS more than just a society concerned with the perpetuation of the mode of CW! The brief insight to our friends lives and countries makes it a little more personal. Lets have more of these windows opened up, I'll be waiting to hear from anyone within the membership who'd like to share with us similar things. As long or as short as you like, with images if possible.

While on the subject of images, here's two more of award recipients from 2007. If others would like to send images of themselves with their awards, I'll be happy to publish in the next edition of BP.



On the left Peter. G4LHI displaying his 2007 G3ZQS Award. And of course, on the Right, Stan. K4UK with his 2007 WARC QRP Award certificate. Congratulations to you both.

Before I get on to the results tables for February, I have to comment on the (Lack of) interest in the 21st Anniversary activity. After a healthy amount of enquiries from members globally, I'd expected to receive a significant selection of entrant logs for the first session; but only three have materialised. (All from FISTS NA members...Thank you for your support) Perhaps when the next session is active during April, more will join in.

Onto the Ladder, WARC and 21st activity tables for February.

Fistly the ladder.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DECE	TOTALS
G6GUN	22	34											56
G4LHI	30	25											55
IK2RMZ	15	33											48
OH7QR	14	27											41
M0JRQ	24	13											37
G8XGQ	16	19											35
M0DRK	16	10											26

And now the WARC Activity.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DECE	TOTAL	MULTI	MASTER	PWR
IK2RMZ	137	182											319	33	10527	QRO
G4LHI	201	182											383	19	7277	QRO
K4UK	23	83											106	24	2544	QRO
OH7QR	87	57											144	6	864	QRO
W4YE	32	48											80	9	720	QRO
G6GUN	34	38											72	6	432	QRO
M0DRK	20	33											53	4	212	QRO
G8XGQ	14	24											38	3	72	QRO
K4ORD	3	13											16	4	64	QRP
W4FCR	0	11											11	3	33	QRO
©																
KA3NZR	0	1											1	0	1	MIX

Finally, the 21st activity.

CALL	POINTS	MULTI	TOTAL	CLASS	
K9AAA	297	3	891	(A)QRO	FISTS NA
WB2MIC	143	2	286	(A)QRO	FISTS NA
K4UK	22	0	22	(A)QRO	FISTS NA

Thanks to all those who have found time to get on air and support the activities. I noticed that participants logs included stations worked in Singapore, Oman, Guyana, Qatar, UAE, Diego Garcia (Chagos Islands) Jamacia, Cayman Islands, and the Pitcairn

Islands. A significant number were other society members. Dare I suggest that an upturn of the Solar Cycle is beginning to happen?

Till next time.

73. MØBPT



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