

BRASSPOUNDER

June 2007



For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge

Welcome to the June edition.

Hi All. Seems that the Activity Ladder entrants have had good results during June, with good returns coming in. It's certainly good to see new callsigns in their logs for the month, both from new and not so new members! IK2RMZ reports that he's put in his highest monthly score for the year so far.

I have regretfully decided to end the QRS challenge with immediate effect. The new activity did not have the response I'd hoped from new members and beginners to the mode. My thanks to all the stalwart members who supported the new initiative, both new and not-so-new members. I shall look at doing something for the latter half of the year. I'm hoping to do something as it's the 20th anniversary year of FISTS. Watch this space and also the FISTS reflector.

[FISTS UK/EU reflector](#)

Lets take a look at this months Postbag.

From Martin, IK2RMZ.

Hi Robert,

Please find enclosed my ladder file. This time I was lucky to have good 20m skip. So I worked more FISTS stations than in any other single ladder entry I ever sent in. Thanks to Peter M5ABN who called G4LHI to tell him that I was on 20m.

The evening sessions are of little use here since qrn level is too high.

From Peter, G4LHI.

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim for the June Ladder, quite an interesting event this month 11 & 14 points for the 10th June & 20 & 11 for the 24th. So my best two sessions are 14 & 20 making 34 points to claim for June, not one of my best but at least the event is still getting a little response from the few stalwarts who like myself get a lot of pleasure meeting each other on Sundays for a chat & exchange of Fists info. Very many thanks to those members who joined me on this June Ladder & look forward to many more joining us in the future events.

From Graham, 2E0TEK. Who also put in a good score for the month.

Hello Robert

Here is my claim for June, had a good session as you will see, looking forward to next month.
73 Graham 2E0TEK.

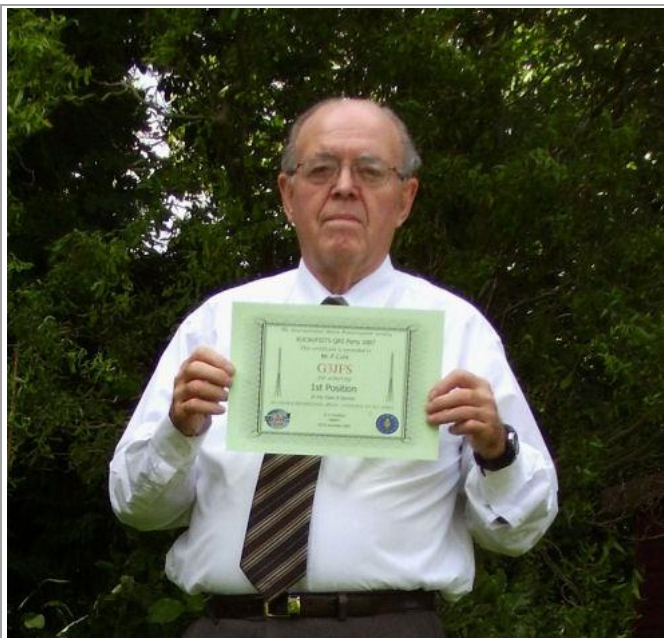
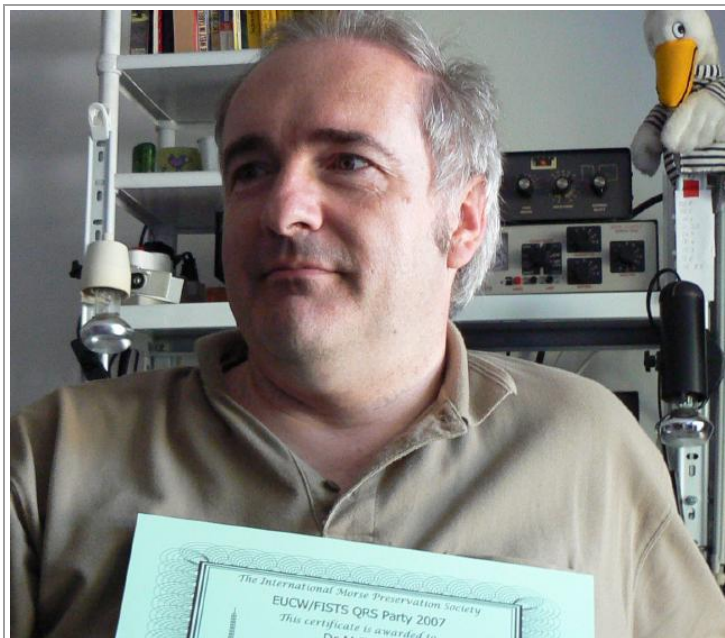
From Peter, M5ABN.

Hi Rob,

Attached my log for the June ladder. Pretty poor band condx this month, but still enjoyed the challenge Hi.

Looks like Peter G4LHI has taken the lead, so will have to pull my socks up next month.

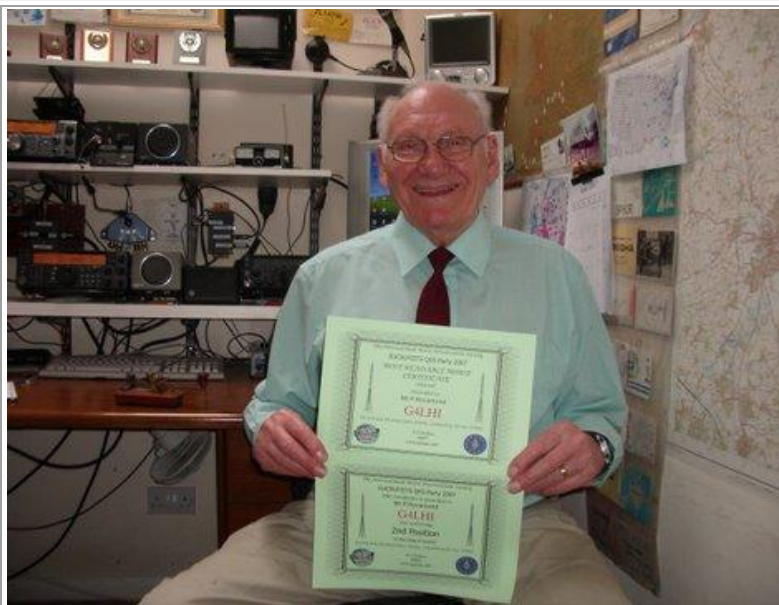
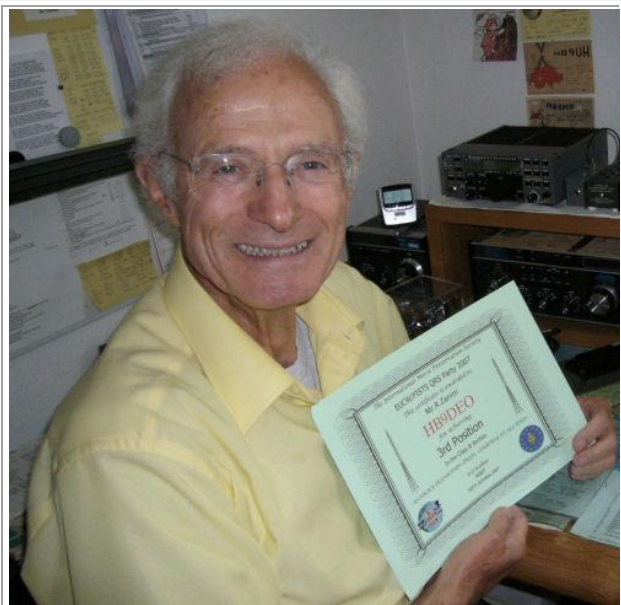
I'm delighted to have received some images of award recipients of the EUCW/FISTS QRS Party 2007 which I'm going to share with you.



1st Place Class "A"
IK2RMZ

1st Place Class "B"
G3JFS

Photo by Eric Zurn Aged 9



3rd Place Class "B"
HB9DEO

2nd Place Class "A"
G4LHI



SM5-1252 Class "C"
Photo by Arlinda Qvick Aged 10

Newcomers Award.
Harald Woerner. DL1HW

Dr. Martin Zurn. IK2RMZ, managed first place in the Class "A" Section. G4LHI made second place in the Class "A" section and also received a "Shared Award" in the "Most Readable Morse" section. Peter, G3JFS made first place in the Class "B" section, with a phenomenal score. And Robi, HB9DEO got the third place award in the class B section of the event. And Ullmar, SM5-1252. The Class "C" entrant with his award. Who tells me that; "The T-shirt is for the Swedish DX Federation, the Swedish Association for DX listeners. Martin had his photo taken by his young son just before traveling over to Germany for a brief visit. Martin hopes to operational using DL1GBZ from JN48 while there.

I've also received a very nice email and image from Harald, DL1HW. Who you may remember decided to use the QRS Party as a platform for his first ever "On Air" QSO. Subsequently, I awarded Harald with a "Newcomers Award" which will be issued to anyone who uses the QRS Event to have their first "On Air" QSO.

Dear Robert,

Your "Newcomers Award" arrived already! It was a great surprise when I opened the envelope and found your award. It is a big honour for me to receive this "Newcomers Award". It will get a very special place in my shack. This is to motivate me and to keep me going on with CW. Once I'd overcome the nervousness and fear to call "CQ QRS" and after finishing the QSO completely sweating all over, now in the subsequent QSO's it is much easier. So the QRS Party was the perfect platform for a "Kickoff" which brought me on air much earlier than without. Next year I'll be there again and probably have the chance to help any other newcomer with lots of patience as I received this year. I saw your web page with the results of the QRS Party. I hope the regular issue of the award encourages many other newcomers to make their first steps during the QRS Party. There is no better chance.

Thank you very much for the "Newcomers Award"!

Best Regards,
and VY73 de Harald, DL1HW.

I thank Harald for taking time out to send this email, to encourage just one person to overcome their nervousness and go live on air has made the Party week worthwhile.....Lets hope that we start a trend where others may be tempted to do the same!

Goeran, SM0PMJ emailed me with his WARC entry and commented.

"Condx up and down this month, with propagation and personally! I fell from a ladder and sprained my foot! Good for radio as I've been confined to a comfortable chair! The recovery of my foot is "QRS" but everything will improve I hope"

I hope you'll join me and wish Goeran a speedy return to health. And to enjoy the comfortable chair while he can!

And from Ullmar Qvick. I've received some fine thoughts.

I love the personal contacts with hams - getting a QSL card is nice but in some cases there is something extra in addition. I heard F3NB on 7 MHz in January and after searching through my first two childhood logs from 1945-1951 I finally found him, on December 19, 1949 and also on 7 MHz CW! Andy evidently was touched by the letter I sent him, so he quickly replied with seven different cards on which he had written the story of his life... Thinking of this extraordinary thing, hearing a ham with 57 years' interval, caused strong feelings of nostalgia...

F3NB, Andre (Andy) started as an SWL in 1929, licensed in 1932, and he's still at it! His cards from 1932, 1947, 1949 etc illustrate this... He can often be heard early mornings around 7030 kHz working DX. And Andy will be 91 this year.... Now, after waiting for some time, I got two fine postcards from him, thanking me for the article I wrote about his life and my logging's for the SSA magazine QTC. He has been very busy taking care of his XYL who has been very ill.. she's better now.

Arlinda was very pleased with your encouraging words. She is not interested in radio, but she had a contact by e-mail and letters with George, GM3OXX, the famous QRP man, who sent her his QSL depicting a nice puppy, after hearing from me that she liked his card very much. Then Arlinda made a fine drawing of a cat and sent by post to George, who was very pleased and now keeps her picture framed on his mantelpiece...

There are indeed some fantastic people in the radio hobby!

73 for now Robert my friend.
Ullmar SM5-1252

From Chris, M0JRQ

Robert,

Just one QSO this month to add to my already low tally. What with two weeks away from home and other commitments June was a tricky month for radio. Plus, this afternoon I have been operating the SES at Pontefract Liquorice Festival, GB0PLF. All that SSB; my throat feels quite raw from so much talking.

I have been putting together the necessary bits and pieces for a 40m mag loop antenna. It began by finding two pieces of plastic conduit in the garage and having the idea that they would make a good spacer or two. The aerial idea came next! Having got the design sorted out, I'm not sure how it will perform but - if it gives even half decent results - I'm definitely considering an 80m version/trying to tune it for 3.5MHz. Since eighty is so noisy here, I'm hoping that the loop might make a big difference on receive, even if I continue using the end fed (I hesitate to call it a 'long wire' since it's not that long) for transmit. Maybe I'll lose my reputation of being an alligator! Seriously, though, if I could get the 3.5MHz QRN down to S7 it would be a huge improvement. And operating the GB0PLF station on 80m this afternoon reminded me that the band isn't quite as horrible as it seems here at M0JRQ!

Taking the odd, short opportunity to get on the air, I have accumulated fair total of FISTS contacts at other times during the month. I have enjoyed the QSO's immensely, even given my struggle to read one or two signals. I was especially grateful to Ron, G3XOV (12572) who has proved to me - quite conclusively - that I do NEED a decent Collins filter following what Ron described as '1/2 a QSO' and which resulted in an exchange of QSL cards and some email correspondence. (Sadly, filters may be a while in coming as the bank balance is still in recovery after buying my Schurr Profi 2 key last month!)

As always, thanks for managing the Challenge and here's hoping that, once the long holiday starts, I'll be on the air every Sunday afternoon racking up the FISTS!

73, Chris M0JRQ

[From Peter, G4LHI with his WARC challenge log came the following interesting report;](#)

I have attached my Warc Band Challenge for June and am quite pleased with the results this month. Mostly on 30m with five QSO's on 17m & just one try on 12m with my local friend, so perhaps the band conditions may be improving?

Had three very interesting QSO's with the research ship **Maria S Merian** hence the callsign DP0MSM/mm, not a Fists member unfortunately because I worked him in three separate Grid squares in the sea between Newfoundland & Greenland, would have helped my multies. Hope to find him in July he tells me he will be near Iceland.

I must thank Stan, amongst the many stns I worked, for the four QSO's worth 3 points each, with his Fists Club station & one with his own QRP stn & also for getting Bob, K8FN join in our QSO & I collected a new EM 79 grid square, a very enjoyable & profitable 20 minutes QSO, many thanks Stan & Bob.

Only managed to find David, VK3DBD once for a very difficult 529/419 QSO, but nice to make it David, thanks for that & hope conditions better in July.

The newest Fists member I worked this month was Mike, NQ3D, Nr 13323 in FN 20 & was pleased to work Matteo, IZ1CLB Nr 13201 in JN 44 as a Fists member, I had worked him several times before he joined the Club.

Found a new Fists grid square, Panama, FJ 09 with Cam, HP1AC & a non Fists Stn CO2NB in EL 83, not bad DX on 30m

I must thank all the old faithful's& new Stations that helped me get my new 10 Fists locators & 137 points this month & look forward to a good July with plenty of new Members joining in the fun of the G3ZQS WARC Band Challenge. Sorry not to name each individually this month but very many thanks to you all.

Heard from John, GM4WZL who's sadly housebound at the moment, awaiting surgery to his knees. John tells me that he's been quite active on 6m and 10m. He's also had a new addition to the Aerial farm at GM4WZL.

"I have been having good fun on 6 Mtrs, work VE and W8's. And on 10 have been stacking and racking them, worked LA and Washington and a lot of EU on CW. My new Antenna is working very well on all the 6 Bands 30-20-17-15-12-10 MTRS. It is a Moonraker ADEX 6400 4ELE Beam.

Here's an image of the new addition to GM4WZL.



WARC	2007																
CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS	MULTI	MASTER	PWR	
F2YT	431	575	0	0	0	0							1006	70	70420	QRO	
G4LHI	149	131	119	187	124	137							847	56	47432	QRO	
K4UK	55	99	30	97	49	34							364	74	26936	QRP	
IK2RMZ	106	73	91	147	148	108							673	39	26247	QRO	
OH7QR	59	68	115	30	30	35							337	27	9099	QRO	
W4YE	26	28	14	42	18	54							182	21	3822	QRO	
W4FCR(c)	0	2	1	0	18	83							104	27	2808	QRO	
K4ORD	4	20	21	16	6	21							88	18	1584	QRP	
DL1GBZ	0	0	0	46	57	22							125	12	1500	QRO	
KA3NZR	5	24	7	27	9	8							80	17	1360	MIXED	
SM0PMJ	0	0	0	0	30	63							93	5	465	QRO	
2E0TEK	16	0	23	16	0	0							55	5	275	QRO	

You'll notice that there has been some changes in positions in both the Activity Ladder and WARC challenges. People have been busy on radio and I congratulate the participants who've moved up in the tables! Lets look forward to an improvement in band Condx during the second half of 2007, and more members will get to meet on air.

That's about it for this month. Thanks for all your input, reports etc. Hope to hear you on the air soon.

73.

Keep Bashing the Brass.



[Back to homepage](#)