

BRASSPOUNDER

March 2008



For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge

Welcome to the March edition.

Doesn't time fly when your havin fun? It seems only yesterday that I was preparing the February edition of BP. The most important date for your diary in April is the FISTS Sponsored EUCW QRS Party which will be taking place during the 28th of April to the 2nd of May inclusive. Sincerly hope you'll be able to get on and meet members of FISTS and other EUCW clubs. Full rules can found [HERE](#) You can also find out a little more on the EUCW by visiting [HERE](#) Look forward to working you during the QRS Party week.

I've heard from Fists member Tony, G3ZRJ. Who tells me;

I participated in the AGCW Bug Key evening on 20th Feb, I've just had the results and came 2nd out of 53 stations - was quite pleased as the event was on 80 Metres so G stations are not in the best place as most of the ops were DL,HB and a few SM and others. I made 50 contacts in the 90 minutes, the leader had 54.I've a sent a recent picture of my station also a picture sent to the organizers by an Italian station who has the biggest collection of bug keys I've ever seen – don't how many ever get on the air! I thought you might be interested to see this tableful of keys. Vy 73. Tony G3ZRJ



Thanks and congratulations Tony for your news, and of course, many thanks for the images. The I6HWD collection is very impressive. As you quite rightly point out, just how many get on the air I wonder? The image of your Drake TR7A caught my eye, and I see that your collection of keys has swelled somewhat. Thanks for the images and information. Always gratefully received.

From Peter. G4LHI.

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim for the March Activity Ladder, I have only entered for the two afternoon sessions so no need for me to choose the best hi hi. There certainly seemed to be very much more activity this month, which I am very pleased to see, in fact there were stations working that I just did not get a chance to work during the two hours, and some stations that I have not heard on the Ladder before, very nice & hope they enjoyed it & continue with the Ladder & put a claim in to you. I applied the rule to pass on the frequency after five continuous QSO's, but could have worked more that I heard call me if I had stayed there, but I certainly think this a very good rule & hope others remember and apply it. Unfortunately the conditions did not allow me to work my very dear friend Erkki this month, hope they improve for April & hope Erkki did manage to find some stations to work this month for his claim?

73. Peter. G4LHI.

Thanks for your support Peter. Other comments received seem to say the same thing, perhaps members are working towards awards within the society and are realising that it is a good hunting ground!

From Chris. M0JRQ.

Robert,

Please find attached my log for March - as you'll see, not many Ladder QSOs to report. Decorating during the first couple of weekends of the month. I managed to sneak into the shack on two occasions during the first Ladder Sunday, operating with dusty face and painty fingers! We went away over the Easter weekend, on the trip I took my home-brewed SP-1 tx (500mW on a good day from a 2N3906 PA, powered with a PP3!) with me. I managed a few 40m QSOs late on Easter Sunday evening using about five metres of wire looped around our ground-floor hotel room for an antenna. I also took my FT-817 along with me and was astonished at the low levels of activity on 2m in Kent and the southeast as compared with Yorkshire and the northeast. (Very quiet on FM and - on CW - nothing heard from Friday morning through until Monday afternoon!) During the last week I have been enjoying operating the GB0BUZZ special event station, marking the visit of Buzz Aldrin to Pontefract as a guest of the West Yorkshire Astronomical Society on 30. March. The station has been on the air for just seven days (Monday to Sunday) and we've operated CW every day, 80m and 40m. Having based our estimates for QSOs on previous SES operations (Yorkshire Day, GB0YD, and Pontefract Liquorice Festival, GB0PLF, to name but two) I splashed out club money on what seemed like plenty of QSL cards and promptly ran out on Wednesday, less than half way through the period of operation! Anyway, I ordered a second (bigger!) box of cards and everyone who worked us can expect a card via the bureau. A good few FISTS members have been worked and a fair selection of FISTS numbers recorded in the station's log book.

Let's look forward to the Sundays in April.

73 Chris M0JRQ

Thanks for the report Chris & update on your QRP Portable operation during Easter.
Nice to hear that members managed to get in your SES log.

From Derek. M0DRK.

Hello Robert,

Please find attached logs for March. Had a very nice month popping up on 30m now and again as I do. Nice to get a contact with David VK3DBD who had been called for lunch but still made time for me. I hope the fish and chips did not get cold David, many thanks for the points. Also very nice to work Martin with DL1GBZ/DP6M. Since the start of 2008, on 30m I have worked eighteen different countries, some for the first time and met many new contacts so even though I am not on air that often, it's been just great.

Very 73 for now, Derek M0DRK

Hello Derek. Pleased to hear that you're enjoying 30m, at the risk of repeating myself over and over again. A very underused part of the amateur spectrum which surprises all who go on and use for any length of time.

From Erkki. OH7QR.

Hello Robert,

Please find attached my two logs. In the ladder my success rate was very poor during both events. I couldn't catch any members from UK at our usual time 14 UTC on 20M. The condx were very poor. In the Warc Band Challenge I did better. The better condx keep us waiting. The 30M band is open from early morning till late evening, so I spent most of my time there. The wx is now quite warm and the snow is melting. But we have still about 30cm. In the daytime it's plus 9 degrees.

73. Erkki. OH7QR.

Hello Erkki. G4LHI has commented earlier on the poor condx, as you have said, the better condx seem to be evading us. And as I remember, I did say last month that "Dare I say an upturn in condx" etc etc.

From Stan. K4UK.

Rob.

Very little activity on my part in the middle of the month. Busy in the Virginia QSO Party where I made 485 QSO's from my mobile operating from 19 different city/county locations. But all of that was on non-WARC bands - mostly 80 & 40 Meters. Did manage to get 12 new grids and worked Peter, G4LHI and Jurek, EA6UN and Hector, NP4FW and Marco, XE2S for new DX Grids.

73. Stan. K4UK

NP4 and XE2 nice DX Stan. Well done!.

From Peter. G4LHI.

Hello Robert,

I am pleased to attach my claim for the March WARC Band Challenge, which as always, I thoroughly enjoyed and met up with some old friends and pleased to say found a few new ones on the bands this month hence my 8 multies for March. I do hope that they will be joining us again during the year and also put a claim in to you Robert.

A brief summary of my March activity for your BP report. 111 QSO's for 153 points and 8 Multies.

The 8 very welcomed multies were:- KG4CNZ, Robert, 8142, EM77: 2E0PIE, Bob, 12596, IO93: VE2OI, Pierre, 9529, FO31: K4IA, Buck, 6702, FM18: W4YE, Buddy, 3929, FM07: DL1GBZ, Martin, 853, JN48: NE8J, Howard, 13142, EL88: and OM3TBG, Milan, 7734, JN98: Very many thanks for the nice QSO's and points guys & hope to see you all on the bands many times during the year.

Very many thanks also to the many stations worked for the maximum of four QSO's during March & also to the many other stations who helped with my score, the Fists DX including Stan, K4UK, David VK3DBD, Ed, K1GDH, Emanuele, IZ0ETE, Fran, EA1APA, Vic, W9RGB, not forgetting dear Erkki, OH7QR & the many "local" Fists & non Fists members worked. A very interesting month, found a few in the DXexpedition pile-ups, hard to get the info from them but perseverance pays off in the long run even for the one point.

73. G4LHI.

Thanks for your excellent report of your activities on the WARC's during March. A very good score.

Before I get on to the results, I'd like to Welcome David GØXAH to the WARC activity. He managed 33 points and 4 multipliers for his first outing this year. Well done, hope to see you next month. (He did mention if I knew of any delaying tactics while he catches up with the leaders!) Hi Hi. All meant in humour gentlemen in case I do get any emails with suggestions! Also, welcome to Ron, GØMRH in Stratford-upon-Avon who joins us for his first outing of the year in the Ladder.

Thats about it from me this for this month, lets look at the results tables. Firstly the ladder.

LADDER	2008			
CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTALS
G6GUN	22	34	43	99
G4LHI	30	25	37	92
IK2RMZ	15	33	18	66
OH7QR	14	27	7	48
M0JRQ	24	13	8	45
M0DRK	16	10	18	44
G8XGQ	16	19	8	43
G0MRH	0	0	9	9

At the first quarter stage of the year, it is anyones guess who will come out on top. And the WARC Challenge table.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	MULTI	MASTER	PWR
IK2RMZ	137	182	115										434	36	156	24QRO
G4LHI	201	182	152										535	27	144	45QRO
K4UK	23	83	42										148	36	53	28QRO
OH7QR	87	57	101										245	9	22	05QRO
G6GUN	34	38	61										133	14	18	62QRO
W4YE	32	48	46										126	14	17	64QRO
MØDRK	20	33	45										98	8	78	4QRO
DL1GBZ/DP6M	0	0	117										117	3	35	1QRO
KA3NZR	0	1	26										27	6	16	2MIX
K4ORD	3	13	9										25	6	15	0QRP
G8XGQ	14	24	11										49	3	14	7QRO
G0XAH	0	0	33										33	4	13	2QRO
W4FCR ©	0	11	0										11	3	33	QRO

Finally. Mixed Key week took place from the 2nd to the 8th March 2008.

The event was and has been poorly supported. So I shall remove it from the 2009 activity calendar. I thank the people who did take time out to support the activity. Here's the results.

MKW	2008
CALL	POINTS
IK2RMZ	128
G4LHI	33
PA3AFF/qrp	23
G8XGQ	11

Congratulations to Martin, IK2RMZ for an excellent winning score, and of course, congratulations to G4LHI, PA3AFF and G8XGQ. Thank you all for supporting the event.

Till next time. 73. Keep bashing the brass.



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