

BRASSPOUNDER



For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge

November 2006

Hello again and welcome to the November offering. I'm just noticing how quickly the year has gone by!

Sadly, for Activity Ladder entrants, the going was very tough, with stations being swamped by the big "Contest" that was operational during the weekend in question. You'll have noticed by now (I hope) The new activity calendar for 2007 in which I've revamped the ladder to hopefully address the situation which has all too often spoilt the weekend for some of our supporters. Essentially, I'll answer the most obvious question that people are asking me (Which is, "WHY")

Giving you Four options on how you want to tackle your activity ladder is the most obvious way to go to address the issue of swamping by major contests. If you turn on your TX/RX and hear the big contests on air, you have two options don't you? Either turn off the radio and wait for the next date in the activity. (Attend to chores around the garden etc.) Or make a go of it and keep the scores, if you do better in your other operating windows you can bin the ones you find inferior and send in the two most profitable ones!

The QRS Postcode Challenge has been activated to address the issues that are filtering down to me from new members and inexperienced newcomers to our mode. How can we be expected to foster and encourage newcomers to use the mode if all they're hearing is code being sent which is just to quick for them? We are all aware of the term, "Practice makes perfect" But we have to offer a solution to our newcomers that'll get them on the air and overcome their nervousness. And let them get the practice that they need to become as experienced as many of our members are! Without

sounding like the prophet of doom, we are all not going to be around for ever! And when we've gone who is going to continue keeping our mode alive? The next generation! If our QRS members have a window to come on air where there will be like minded others on air, their confidence and experience will grow! If our experienced members take time to come on air, be patient, and let them learn from their experience, in no time we're going to have the next generation of code enthusiasts active on air! With this activity I'm offering a chance for the members of FISTS of varying levels of experience to come together! We now have something in place to do just that! I shall be monitoring the levels of activity from the logs being returned to me, and I'm hoping to be pleasantly surprised by the number of entrants!

Finally, before I get off the soapbox and get on with the business in hand, you'll notice that we have a busy 2007 ahead of us with all the activities planned, again, I'll be monitoring the amount of interest in the activities and make a decision to either keep or scrap the most under entered ones.

Enough from me, here's some offerings from this months "Postbag" thanks again to all the regular contributors.

FROM TONY SMITH, G4FAI

EUCW CHANGES

FISTS is a member-club of the European CW Association, an association of European and other CW clubs which aims to promote amateur CW in various ways. FISTS own contribution to EUCW activities is the annual EUCW/FISTS QRS Party.

(The next one will be held from 23rd to 27th April 2007 - details/rules in Keynote later).

A new chairman of EUCW will take office on 1st January 2007. He is Ivan Ivanov (Johny) LZ1PJ, a member of the LZ CW Club. The previous chairman was Oscar Verbanck ON5ME, who has been EUCW chairman since 1991, overseeing a notable expansion of the membership of the Association in that time.

Due to ill-health, Guenther Nierbauer DJ2XP has retired as EUCW Award and Fraternizing CW Party Manager after many years in this capacity. He has been replaced by Werner "Joe" Jochem DK7VW.

Every EUCW club appoints an ECM (EUCW Communications Manager) to liaise with EUCW and for some years I have undertaken this task for FISTS. I have now retired as ECM and have been replaced by Robert Walker M0BPT who is already FISTS Contest

Manager and EUCW/FISTS QRS Party Organiser. We are grateful to Robert for taking on yet another task for FISTS.

Full information about EUCW can be found on the AGCW-DL website at www.agcw.org/eucw/english.html This information is prepared and regularly updated by AGCW's ECM, Dr. Martin Zurn IK2RMZ/DI1GBZ. Who is also a member of FISTS.

Members are asked to support FISTS by taking part in EUCW activities when they are announced in Key Note. Events like the QRS Party in April and the Fraternizing CW Party in November are not contests and those who take part find them to be very enjoyable CW activities.

From good friend Peter, G4LHI regarding the ladder

Hello Robert,

Don't the month's fly by hi. Pleased to attach my claim for the November Ladder, did not think we would get much activity this month with that dreaded CQ WW CW Contest, but very many thanks to those good old Fists guys jumping in where the Angels fear to tread & holding the QRG as long as we could on 80m, we did not do too bad.

The contest guys came up on 80m much earlier on Sunday than they did on Saturday so I pulled the plug on 80m a couple of hours earlier so not sure if the Midland Club boys did come up later, sorry if they came up & I missed them this month & hope they did well?

There were a few members that I have not worked on the Ladder before so again I wonder if the NG did help? I see there were a few comments on there & you have got them all wondering what you have in store for next year (knock knock nudge nudge hi)

I did work dear old Ekki OH7QR on 30m at 0832 on Sunday morning & he said he would try 80m during the afternoon, but sorry to say I did not find him there, but with his QRP & the dreadful racket on 80m I was not surprised. Wonder if he has put a log in for the ladder?

Again I must thank all the Fists Members that came up & gave me points & for their continued support for the Clubs Activities, long live CW, even with all the opposition we seem to be getting now-a-days.

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Derek, M0DRK tells me that he found the ladder "Manic" but not impossible to work. "Nice to work Colin, M5FRA for the first time, though his 589 signal was sometimes being swamped by the QRM" He was also pleased to meet tony, G3YHO for the first time with both stations enjoying QRP output! His last two contacts were on 2m with local FISTS members.

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From Peter, M5ABN, who I commiserate with!

Hi Robert,

What a disaster this month was !! I got the timing all wrong because of the decorating, and finished up fighting with the big contest. Never mind though, always next time

Heard from Stan, K4UK who tells me;

Of the 76 QSO's this month 33 of them were while operating mobile in motion.

The new "DX" grid multipliers this month were:

LZ1JZ, KP2 / N4BP, S58MU, VP5 / K7LAZ, PJ4 / K4BAI

I'm continually amazed about what I can work from the mobile on my way to and from the golf course. - Hi ! And we had good golfing weather all of November.

December may well be different though - weather-wise.

Our daughter and family are coming home from their missionary post in Goure, Niger. They will arrive in the States on December 6.

So my operations during December may be quite limited since they have been gone for 3 years and we'll have lots of "catching up" to do.

They will be renting a house here at the lake about 3 miles from us. The two grandsons will probably be doing a lot of kayaking around our "Beautiful Smith Mountain Lake"

I'm pleased to hear that you've got the opportunity to play "Catch up" After three years with your family during December. I'm sure that your grandsons will keep you busy. We all send our regards to you and your family and hope you have a fine time!

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Also heard from Martin re: the WARC Bands wearing his DL1GBZ hat during the first day of November on a visit to his homeland, he tells me that it was his last time operating from JN48 for this year unless something crops up and he will not be back in DL before Spring of 2007. Martin returned home to Italy and got back on the WARC using IK2RMZ. So two entries from him this month. No Ladder return from Martin this month.

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From Peter, G4LHI regarding the WARC Challenge

here's my November WARC Band Challenge Claim. Not too bad as far as QSO's & points go, but only one new Square this month & that was IN80, Richard, F5VJD, 4870 nr Rennes.

Very nice to work dear Erkki, OH7QR/qrp, 3 times on 30M & once on 17M, very many thanks Erkki. With the poor propagation conditions this month I only managed to find David, VK3DBD, once on 30M, but not a whisper from Stan, K4UK at all. I had the usual support from a few of the trusty stalwarts in the Huntingdon Chapter, many thanks guys & to all that helped me get my 140 points this month. Hope conditions may improve in Dec & we can find a few new squares to end the 2006 Challenge with a bang

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Erkki, OH7QR tells me that he diverted his attention to the WARC challenge this month because, "The bands were full of CQWW contesters"

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I've received this communication via email from Ray, F6BQV, Chairman of UFT France. This is ideal for you people who are lucky enough to have the estate to hoist a "Top Band" Aerial in the air. Read on:

From Ray, F6BQV, UFT Chairman :

Each year we are hoping that your members will enter in the next EUCW 160m contest. Fortunately it seems that the « TOP BAND » is still a place where we can find the original « Ham Spirit ». I'm sure that your members would like to be part of it. This contest is a good place to meet.,

19 EUCW Societies was represented in the 2006 edition. No doubt that there will be more in 2007. This is happening on January 6th and 7th 2007. Visit here for more information.

The complete contest rules are available on the UFT web pages at : <http://uft.net/articles.php?lng=fr&pg=22&prt=1>, in French language, which is the official text. The other are only translations as exact as possible.

73 from The EUCW 160m CW Party organizers gang.

F6CEL, F6ENO, F5NQL.

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Also an interesting communication from Tony, G4FAI. Wonder if there's any French speaking members of FISTS who'd like to take up the challenge? Read on;

The French Speaking Telegraphist Club's European QSO
ON5CFT Setting up the CFT's (Club Francophone Télégraphiste
)European QSO.

Purpose :Practising CW Telegraphy , being CW active , activating frequency bands.We need passionate associates from each member state of the European Union (F – DL – SP – EA – ON – CT – HA –I-G/M)so as to have a CFT representative in each European Country.

Why :Setting up a European CW QSO involves that an operator from one of the European countries takes up the role of a QSO Captain on Friday nights.This will enhance the QSO development of CFT in Europe.

How to proceed ?The CW operator should be a member of the CFT (subscription free).Each Captain will be able to lead the QSO from his own QTH.The procedure shall be quite simplified e.g. CQ CFT from F5GOV/N°CFT.An ordinary CW key , a double paddle or an electronic key may be used.

Frequency :QRG 3.520 Mhz + or – QRM.

Power :Just mention if you are going to work with the normal power 100 Watts or QRP.**Time** :The QSO shall start at 20h00 UTC.

Please note :In order to be able to set up a schedule , I need each subscriber to tell their Fridays of choice.The schedule shall be found on website <http://www.on5cft.be>If you are interested in the project , please contact on4ldl@skynet.be

EU member states : Belgium – Germany – Greece – France – Ireland – Italy – Luxembourg – the Netherlands – Austria – Portugal – Finland – Czech Republic – Denmark – Estonia – Cyprus – Latvia – Lithuania – Malta – Poland – Slovenia – Slovakia – Sweden – United Kingdom.

Also heard from Philip, K9PL. who tells me about his free online publication. Read On; I am the editor of the "K9YA Telegraph," a free, monthly amateur radio publication (pdf) with subscribers in more than 100 countries including the UK and Eire. All three of the Telegraph staff: N9BOR, W9CBT and myself, are longtime FISTS members.

<http://www.k9ya.org>

Why not take a look and subscribe to the mailing list? Publications like these need our support!

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Another item of news. Paul Longden, son of Geo. Expressed a wish that his call should not remain silent and be returned to the airwaves (And to the society he formed) In his memory. After discussion with Ofcom, and their subsequent agreement GX3ZQS is now registered to the "International Morse Preservation Society" (FISTS CW Club) It will carry the number "2" And will be used on air during 2007 for events. i.e. SKW, EUCW QRS and other activities. It will be classed as a National call and be worth 5 points to the award chasers etc. Listen out for it!

Finally, I'd like to publicly wish Bob, G6GUN "Happy Birthday" He reached a "Milestone" birthday early in December and I couldn't let it pass without telling everyone, so I hope you'll email him and wish him the same, if he wants to, he'll tell you what the milestone actually was.

That's all from me for this year. The next time you'll hear from me will be early in January 2007 with the results of the 2006 activities. Hope you all enjoy the festive period, have a wonderful time, "Eat, Drink & be Merry".

And of course, enjoy your New Year Celebrations, thanks for your support during 2006 and look forward to making your acquaintance again in 2007.

Here are the results tables

FISTS LADDER TOTALS 2006

CALL	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
G4LHI	42	39	42	47	46	36	43	38	42	52	43		470
G6GUN	35	41	37	45	35	42	39	23	24	47	28		396
M5ABN	43	31	35	32	0	26	31	32	44	20	12		306
IK2RMZ	0	0	0	39	9	28	30	31	25	0	0		162
M0DRK	15	0	14	22	17	8	12	12	12	16	13		141
OH7QR	5	13	25	8	0	7	2	12	2	10	0		84
M0BHA	12	19	12	22	0	0	14	0	0	0	0		79
2E0TEK	20	0	21	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0		73
MX5HDF	6	9	9	7	13	0	11	7	0	10	0		72
G8XGQ	8	6	12	4	0	6	10	0	6	6	4		62
G0XAH	0	0	11	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		28
M0CMQ	0	0	0	0	4	6	5	6	6	0	0		27
DL1GBZ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0		24
M5FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	6		22
GM4WZL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	2		16
G0OYH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0		15
PA3AFF	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		10

And the WARC Challenge

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DECT	TOTALS	MULTIES	MASTERCALL	PWR
K4UK	57	93	112	173	130	134	132	135	93	194	107		176	239360	K4UK	QRO
IK2RMZ	0	0	9	237	215	173	113	107	215	215	51		79	105465	IK2RMZ	QRO
G4LHI	77	78	88	125	130	94	112	93	73	150	140		61	70760	G4LHI	QRO
G3ASG	0	26	133	196	0	0	155	313	166	108	0		39	42783	G3ASG	QRO
DQ35AGCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	275	83	0	0	0		11	3905	DQ35AGCW	QRO
DL1GBZ	0	0	0	96	15	70	35	26	0	22	28		15	4380	DL1GBZ	QRO
OH7QR	18	25	31	30	14	11	5	11	5	50	46		12	2952	OH7QR	MIXED
G0UQF	20	5	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		10	750	G0UQF	QRO
M5ABN	23	20	18	20	0	0	8	0	0	0	0		7	623	M5ABN	QRO
KI4DEF	0	0	0	27	29	0	0	0	0	0	0		14	784	KI4DEF	QRP
2E0TEK	23	0	10	10	23	0	0	0	12	0	0		3	234	2E0TEK	QRO
G6GUN	22	8	0	0	0	8	18	0	0	0	0		4	224	G6GUN	QRO
G0XAH	0	0	26	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		4	196	G0XAH	QRO
GX2HDF	0	6	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		2	30	GX2HDF	QRP
DQ2006A	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0		1	19	DQ2006A	QRO
G8XGQ	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0		1	12	G8XGQ	QRO

73,

"Keep Bashing the Brass"



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