

BRASSPOUNDER

November 2008



For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge

Welcome to the November edition.

As this is the penultimate edition for 2008, and the final BP of the year will go live during January 2009. I'd like to wish you "Compliments of the season, a happy, peaceful christmas and peaceful 2009 to you all.

Not a lot to report this edition, no doubt many of you are gearing up for the coming festive period. I did notice from logs received by entrants of the WARC Challenge that 17m has been performing well for some of you with JA and VK being worked, amongst other countries of course. 30m being the best all round performer throughout the month.

Lets take a look a t this months postbag. Firstly from Derek M0DRK.

Hi Robert, Here are my logs for November Ladder and Warc Bands. Many thanks to all members who gave me points again. As this will be my last entry before Christmas, may I wish all members everywhere a Very Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to meeting you all again in 2009. 73. Derek. M0DRK.

Thanks for your support over the year Derek. Seasons greetings to you also.

And from Graham. G3ZOD.

Hi Rob. Well, in my first ever Ladder session at the end of October I got 4 points. In the second one I got 2 points. Now, I can do arithmetic and I could see where this was leading!!! HI

Fortunately however, in fact it was an improvement with 6 points in the third and most recent session. I heard less activity on 80m on the 23rd November session than the 9th November although if Peter G4LHI's signal was anything to go by, propagation was similar on both Sundays.

RF gains UP, noise blankers ON and here's looking forward to the December Ladder!

73 de Graham (Gra) G3ZOD Fists #8385 IO83WJ

[And from Peter G4LHI with his activity ladder report.](#)

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim for the November Ladder Activity, just one more month to go which will be very interesting, I do hope conditions are good so we can have a good old gallop to the winning post, will be great fun & no doubt full of the Xmas spirits & pudding as we get nearer to the post hi!!

November was not a bad month for activity, I made 19 & 18 points for the two sessions, met up with a lot of the good old stalwarts again, very nice to work them for both sessions, many thanks again guys, & very many thanks to all members & non members taking part in the activity.

Very pleased to find Graham, G3ZOD enjoying the Ladder with his 5 watts & indoor ant, well done Gra & thanks for the two QSO's. I also met one new member Peter, G0TCF, 1340, from Nottingham, nice to meet you Peter & do hope you enjoyed the Ladder & we will find your there as a regular, don't forget the WARC band Challenge!!

That's all for now folks, hope to find you all and perhaps a few more on the starting line for the December chase! In the meantime I wish you all & your families a very happy holiday, & good hunting.

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

[And from Graham. G3ZOD with his comments on his month with the WARC Activity.](#)

Hi Rob. Here's my November WARC Challenge submission. I'm QRP (5 watts).

Lots of contacts this month (having a full month helps!). Highlights for me:

At long last achieving a contact with Peter G4LHI on 30m

Reaching into the USA on 30m for the first time

Contacting several of the Latvian stations using the special prefix YL90 to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Republic of Latvia.

Contacting possibly the world's longest callsign in morse code - special event station SQ2008PR (celebrating 90 years independence of Poland). Bearing in mind the length of time it takes to send numbers in morse, and especially zeros, there was plenty of time to go make a cup of tea while he was sending his callsign HI

Two contacts with DL3SEU who was running 1 watt. The first time I was embarrassed to be running the unnecessarily high power of 5 watts, so the next time I heard him calling CQ I turned the power down and we had a full QSO with 1 watt at both ends.

As with last month, nothing heard on 12m.

I was inspired by your embracing modern technology using pencils with erasers attached, so have now gone one step further and started using a propelling pencil with, of course, an eraser attached!

I remember news stories in the past about tooth fillings causing unwanted AM reception, but have to be a little sceptical about receiving CW unaided! My talent though seems to be hearing morse when there isn't any - some cases I've pinned down (neighbours' phones, microwave timers and the SOS in Channel 5's "Highland Emergency" them music) but others worrying remain unexplained!

Finally, a special word of thanks to Peter G4LHI for his encouragement and patient help explaining the ins and outs of the Ladder and WARC Challenge.

73 de Graham (Gra) G3ZOD

FISTS #8385 Locator IO83WJ

Thanks for your report Gra. I notice that you've made an exceptional score with QRP and the indoor aerial this month! I'm sure your scores and station at G3ZOD will be an inspiration to others within the society! It illustrates just what can be achieved with the sunspot cycle in the doldrums! Long may you achieve success with G3ZOD!

And from Peter. G4LHI with his report from the WARC Bands.

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim & report for the November WARC Band Challenge.

Not quite as active as some months, only two new locator/grids found & the least months points scored for me so far, hope December may prove more fruitful & we may have

encouraged some new Fists Members to have a go in the last month of 2008 for a little practice for a full attendance in 2009?!!

With conditions & other commitments in November a few of the stalwarts were missing from my log this month & I only managed three x 4 QSO's this month, thanks Erkki, Derek & Tony, compared with five in October, which obviously reflects in my poor points total. However, still a very enjoyable month & looking forward to the last dash in December & very good luck, good hunting & good conditions to all.

Very many thanks to all members & non members that helped with my total points for November with 87 QSO's for 115 points plus two multipliers, one was also a new member for me, Slav, RW3AA, Fists Nr 824 in KO85, Moscow (Moskva). The other multi I was so pleased to work was Graham, G3ZOD/qrp, Fists Nr 8385 in IO83, Stockport. Graham tells me he is doing very well with his QRP on the WARC Bands & enjoying the challenge, well done Gra & do hope we can make it again when conditions allow.

Conditions on the bands have been very poor during November & apart from one surprise QSO with Stan, K4UK at 1212 one morning, we have not been able to make our usual QSO during the late night early morning session this month, sorry about that Stan, I will pin my ears to the speaker around mid-night gmt during December. Also the early mornings between 0600/0700 have not been favourable on 30m, I was hoping you find David, VK3DBD, now he has gone back home, but sorry David not a peep from VK land so far! But will keep trying on 10.119 +/-.

That's about it for November guys, very many thanks again for your continued support for the 2008 activities, looking forward with interest to the December WARC & Ladder & let's hopes that the band conditions for this final month are favourable & Robert gets a big "Pile-up" of claims.

Guess the next BP you will be reading will be after the holiday period so let me take this opportunity to wish you all & your families a very Happy & Healthy Holiday, from me, Peter & Jean my xyl, & please take care of each other.

73/88 de Peter G4LHI # 2219 IO92

Always a pleasure to receive your report Peter. I notice that David VK3DBD was not heard by you in November. I did notice (As mentioned earlier) that 17m yielded JA and VK from other entrants. Lets hope that December finds you meeting with David.

Here's the results tables for this month. Makes interesting reading!

Firstly the Ladder Activity.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
G6GUN	22	34	43	37	43	40	36	35	32	38	13		373
G4LHI	30	25	37	32	36	37	35	34	36	33	37		372
IK2RMZ	15	33	18	24	9	17	25	25	15	2	5		188
OH7QR	14	27	7	14	14	21	15	9	12	23	18		174
M0DRK	16	10	18	15	17	10	11	13	11	25	21		167
G8XGQ	16	19	8	0	16	13	12	13	7	19	14		137
M0JRQ	24	13	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		45
2E0TEK	0	0	0	0	21	0	12	4	0	0	0		37
G3ZOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8		12
G0MRH	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		9
DL1GBZ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		1

And the WARC Activity.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	MULTI	G-Total	PWR
G4LHI	201	182	152	166	231	172	230	239	212	181	115		2081	124	258044	QRO
IK2RMZ	137	182	115	201	325	158	119	223	80	169	256		1965	123	241695	QRO
K4UK	23	83	42	81	92	92	106	220	143	80	139		1101	136	149736	QRO
G6GUN	34	38	61	103	99	89	75	56	17	20	0		592	49	29008	QRO
OH7QR	87	57	101	66	87	59	59	38	33	91	57		735	30	22050	QRO
W4YE	32	48	46	15	46	14	29	60	61	66	107		524	43	22532	QRO
M0DRK	20	33	45	31	52	33	29	21	15	24	26		329	24	7896	QRO
KA3NZR	0	1	26	2	12	28	29	20	4	0	37		159	34	5406	MIX
W4FCR ©	0	11	0	14	8	9	8	30	14	2	19		115	29	3335	QRO
G8XGQ	14	24	11	16	26	27	17	19	12	16	24		206	16	3296	QRO
DL1GBZ/DP6M	0	0	117	0	21	18	0	0	27	25	0		208	10	2080	QRO
2E0TEK	0	0	0	0	44	0	21	30	0	0	0		95	12	1140	QRO
G3ZOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	121		149	7	1043	QRP
K4ORD	3	13	9	7	0	0	1	3	4	0	3		43	9	387	QRP
G0XAH	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		33	4	132	QRO
PA3AFF	0	0	0	0	1	10	8	6	0	0	0		25	5	125	QRO

And finally.... I came across this information regarding the history of "SOS" ...Read On...

SOS!

The apparently well-known SOS distress call is not quite what it seems. Fancifully represented as 'Save Our Souls', it actually means no such thing. It isn't even SOS; it is a procedural signal, and the three dots - three dashes - three dots are sent as a single signal without the gaps that would be present if three separate letters were being sent. The distress call is

di-di-di-dah-dah-dah-di-di-dit

and not

di-di-dit dah-dah-dah di-di-dit

The International use of the signal was proposed at the Second International Radio Telegraphic Convention in Berlin on November 3rd 1906; "SOS" had been part of the German Radio Regulations since April 1st 1905. The first Conference had been held in 1903,

but the nature of procedural signals was not part of its remit. The 1906 Conference made the "SOS" signal obligatory from July 1st 1908.

Prior to the 1906 Conference there was no standard signal. Marconi operators used "CQD" from February 1904, the D being an extension to the standard CQ signal to signify distress. In 1906 the Navy suggested "NC", this being the equivalent flag signal, but by this time "SOS" was more or less in place.

Marconi operators were rather resistant to adopting "SOS" - one result was that distress signals from the Titanic were sent by its Marconi operators using both "CQD" and "SOS".

Interesting! This illustrates how, over time, the true meaning of aspects of CW signals can be changed! I often wonder if the film and television industry are responsible for many of these changes!.... I'm sure you'll tell me if you know!

73. Keep Bashing the Brass!

MOBPT



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