

# BRASSPOUNDER

*September 2007*



*For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge*

*Welcome to the September offering.*

Hi All. Good to be back here again waffling on about nothing in particular. I'm busy preparing the activity calendar for 2008 at this present time, which will be published in Keynote later this year. For all of you who may not know. the results of Straight Key Week (SKW) 2007 have been published on this site. [CLICK HERE](#) There's also a pdf and a word document download available there.

Lets take a look at some of the reports from participants. Firstly Peter. G4LHI who's sent an excellent report.

Hello Robert, Here we are again with another month scurrying by to get Xmas here once more, don't the time fly when you are having fun!! I enclose my claim & report for Sept WARC Band Challenge. Not such a good score this month but I guess 75 points & 3 new Fists Squares not too bad for September, hope now the time will soon be back to normal & not so much time to get on the garden we may hear/work a few more G stations having a go, although the WARC Bands are not very inter G friendly! My new Fists Squares are:- G0TBD, Terry in JO01. K3CKT, Jim in FM18. & my dear friend Erkki as OF7QR/p in KP24 on his visit to family in Lumijoki. Very many thanks to these guys & also the many others worked during September. The month was very interesting & my new Rotary Dipole seemed to bring the stations in better than my wire dipole for these bands, I found some very good DX , unfortunately apart from the following four not all Fists Members, but nice pleasant DX chats & of course worth one point each :-KG4W, ED. in Glenn Allen,VA.K9HE, John, in Mountain City, TN. K4UK/QRP, Stan. in Moneta, VA. VK3FGE, Dave, in Porepunkaah, Vic. These non fists DX guys were:-9M2GCN, Yure in Kuala Lumpur, Malaya. W1MK, Rob in Boxford, MA. ZP4KFX, Pino in San Pedro, Paraguay. LU5OM, Manuel in Salta, Argentina.WB2YIP, Chuck in Stanhope, NJ. JH6WMJ/4, Koji in Kure City.VU2JOS, Jos in Hyderabad. EA5WJ, Pedro in San Isidro, Tenerife. W8EGB, Clyde in Mancelona, MI. KP4U, Rene in Las Piedras,

Very many thanks to all that helped with my 75 points for the month & hope that we may meet again in October & perhaps some of the non-fists guys may remember our chats & may consider joining our great club.

Thanks for your report this month Peter. It does show that even though band condx are marginal, DX can be worked. Also, judging by your comments on the new addition to G4LHI in the form of the rotary dipole for the WARC's. We can expect the DX to continue and even improve. I'm sure Paul. M0BMN would be very appreciative of an article from yourself on the merits of the rotary dipole for Keynote Peter.

From Stan. K4UK.

Robert:

This month I was busy with the Straight Key Week, the Straight Key Contest, QCWA QSO Party, the Blue Ridge Bonanza (on SSB), NAQCC Sprint, Coast-to-Coast (C2C) Event - all of which were

NOT on the WARC bands

So, not a big score in the WARC Band Challenge - only 39 contacts and 4 new multipliers. I did make

nine contacts with the little KX1 including ones with Dave, G3NKC and Jose, AO5FX. Also had a chat with Mike, KG4VEW on 17 Meters. He is FISTS # 13004 and had been in QSO with Jim, NI4I

getting his CW up to speed so he can get active in FISTS events. He's a member of our Franklin County Club

and is located in FM06 the next grid South of me.

I'm attaching the September Log through September for K4UK.

Hope conditions improve this next month because 17 Meters was not very good, and 30 Meters had deep QSB.

Do hope one of these days to work M0BPT - Hi !

73, Stan - K4UK

Thanks for the report Stan. I see that you have been busy during September! I'm sure we'll have a chat in the near future.

From Erkki OH7QR Who's been operational using the special prefix OF7QR which Finnish hams are being allowed to use.

Between 21st and 23rd of September we paid a visit to my uncle in Lumijoki near Oulu (Grid square KP24NV). I took my FT-897 and a doublet antenna with. Unfortunately I got the antenna only 5 meters high. Throwing the egg-shaped weight (it weighs 360 grams) enough high takes a lot of muscle (which I don't have any more, HI). But nevertheless I managed to get 19 QSOs on 30 meters. I found only two fists (Peter / G4LHI and Martin / IK2RMZ).

I have ordered a mobile whip for 30 and 17 meters. When I get it I'm going to drive as mobile here in my neighbour Grid Squares (quite near are KP32, KP33 and KP43). Hopefully will the conditions soon become better.

Erkki kindly sent in some images of his /p operation from KP24



Had a few general comments from members: Ron. G0MRH who's joined us in the activity ladder tells me its "Just like old times"

Chris. M0JRQ tells me; After going to a better location for 80m and working /P on the ninth, I didn't do so badly at my home QTH today, even if I did have to start out on 40m"

Peter. G4LHI offers his congratulations to Peter. G3JFS and Tony. G3ZRJ for their results in SKW 2007. Incidentally, had a couple of comments from G3JFS regarding SKW and also he tells of a comment from another member regarding QRS week held earlier this year. Read on.

I think the SKW this year has helped to increase awareness of FISTS. In particular I was called by quite a few qrp stations who were obviously taking advantage of the increased activity around our calling channel. Also, since SKW, I have found a noticeable increase in FISTS activity. Yes, my trusty Raymart speed key is in use still and has notched up a few more qsos for the logbook since last year (actually 700+ on qrp and several hundred with higher power). Re your question on unusual keys; one I thought about many years ago was to use a sewing thimble on the index finger as the moving contact that could be 'tapped' on the chassis. Definitely NOT recommended for valve rigs which usually have high voltages on the keying line. For these I suggest a small magnet and reed relay as used in alarm systems - just super glue the bar magnet to a thimble. In the distant past I have had contacts by tapping two bare wire together but might find that difficult now due to the on-set of arthritis. You may be interested in comments on a qsl from Gary 2E0BFJ, Fists 12508, for a 2-way qrp QRS Party qso this year: "Nice to work your stn agn during the QRS Party. If you're as slow as me everyday is a QRS Party (Hi,Hi). Never mind I'm a learner and I love trying." Incidentally it was Gary who saved the Yeovil QRP Fun Run this year by taking over the contest organisation at very short notice.

Also had this from Stan. K4UK regarding SKW 2007

Glad you put the picture of the NP4FW "Hinge" Straight Key in. It may have been the only Home Built key used in SKW - Hi! Got a real laugh when John, K3WWP send me an Email about the picture of the key, saying: "Now I know where the hinge someone took off my gate went."

"Funny that John should mention that missing hinge Stan" .....

OK Lets get to the results tables for this month.....But, before I do. I'll let you know that the new events calendar for 2008 will be published on this site very soon. I'm just finalizing the last few details....I have added a new event for 2008. All I'll say at this moment in time is that; "2008 is the 21st anniversary of FISTS" Our Coming of age, We're 21 only once! We can't let it pass.....Can we?

### Firstly the Activity ladder

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
G4LHI	33	40	47	39	33	34	33	30	34				323
M5ABN	35	46	44	43	28	21	30	0	0				247
IK2RMZ	4	11	20	19	16	24	32	13	21				160
OH7QR	14	4	16	6	7	8	10	14	14				93
2E0TEK	8	0	14	24	12	21	10	0	0				89
G6GUN	26	30	32	0	0	0	0	0	0				88
GM4WZL	0	0	21	35	8	8	0	0	0				72
M0DRK	13	8	10	12	0	13	0	12	0				68
M0JRQ	0	0	4	0	6	2	6	3	24				45
G0MRH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	21				27
2E0AYQ	9	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0				19
G8XGQ	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2				18
PA1SOP	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				6
PA3AFF	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0				4

### And now the WARC Activity

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	MULTI	MASTER	PWR
G4LHI	149	131	119	187	124	137	68	68	75				1058	68	71944	QRO
F2YT	431	575	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				1006	70	70420	QRO
K4UK	55	99	30	97	49	34	56	41	58				519	93	48267	QRP
IK2RMZ	106	73	91	147	148	108	35	99	54				861	45	38745	QRO
OH7QR	59	68	115	30	30	35	28	27	46				438	30	13140	QRO
W4YE	26	28	14	42	18	54	62	52	29				325	40	13000	QRO
DL1GBZ	0	0	0	46	57	22	66	70	20				281	17	4777	QRO
W4FCR©	0	2	1	0	18	83	9	0	13				126	32	4032	QRO
K4ORD	4	20	21	16	6	21	15	4	0				107	21	2247	QRP
KA3NZR	5	24	7	27	9	8	2	0	35				117	22	2574	MIXED
SM0PMJ	0	0	0	0	30	63	0	60	53				206	12	2472	QRO
2E0TEK	16	0	23	16	0	0	0	0	0				55	5	275	QRO
G8XGQ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8				8	1	8	QRO
PA3AFF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0				2	1	2	QRO

Things going along quite nicely

Lets hope October brings some improvement in condx for you all.

Till, the next time, 73. Keep;

"BASHING THE BRASS"



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