

BRASSPOUNDER

September 2008



For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge

Welcome to the September edition.

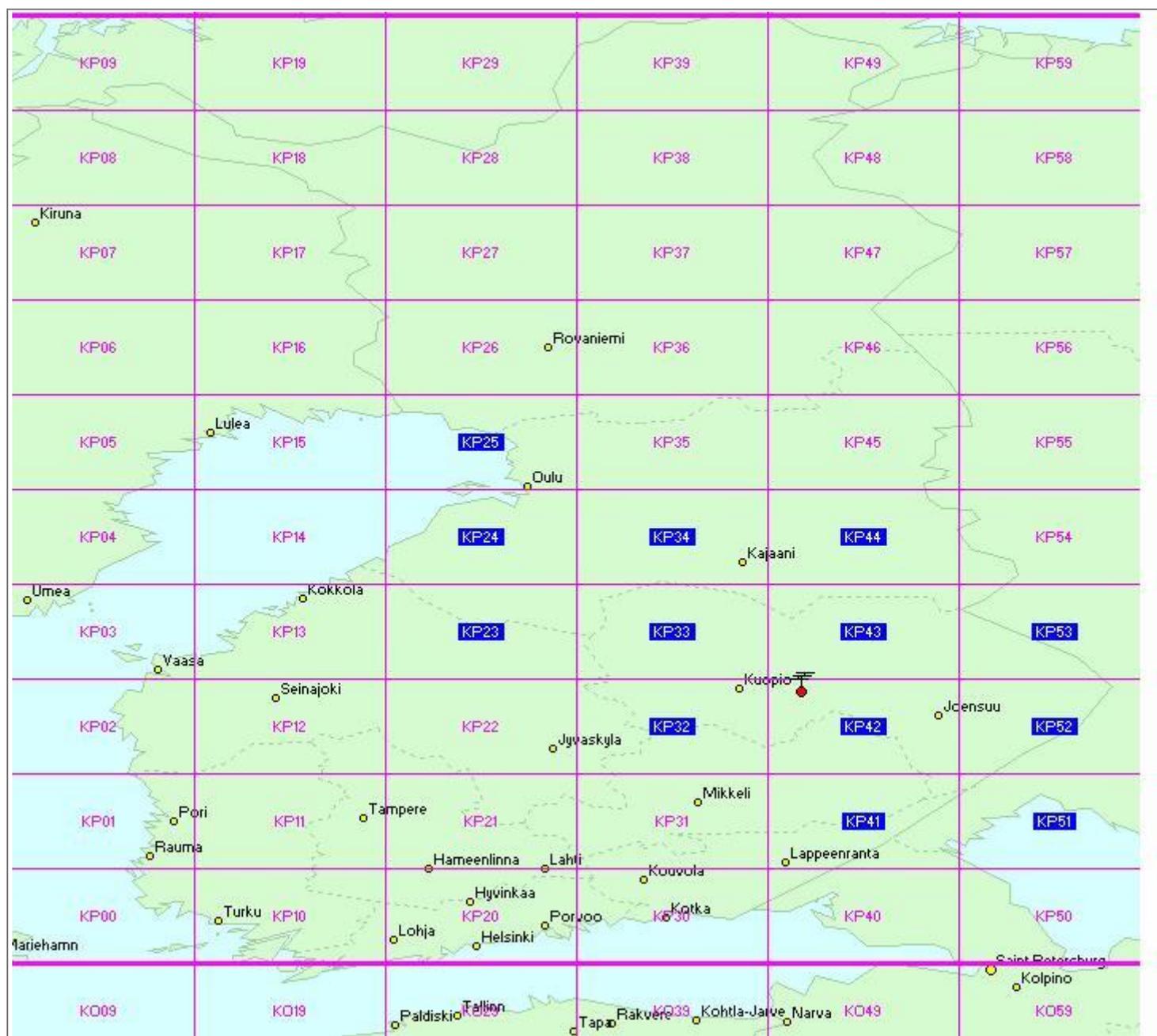
As I write this edition the results of SKW2008 have been published to this site. Already I've received emails saying thank you for the results and report of the activity. Needless to say, you the membership, make SKW and the other activities in the FISTS calendar what they are with your support and enthusiasm for the society.

Not a lot to report this month. Our usual supporters of the activities have been busy again, always a pleasure to bring to you their findings over the previous month. I'm busy with the 2009 activity calendar as I write this. Keep returning to this site for a full inventory of whats happening.

On to reports from members.

Firstly. From Erkki. OH7QR

I participated in the Ladder only on 14th, on 28th I was visiting my cousin near Oulu and couldn't come on the band. Besides, there was much QRM caused by RTTY-Contesters. Why do they violate the IARU HF Band Plan? We should protest against this behavior. On Warc Band Challenge I had better luck. I was happy to meet Stan / K4UK on 18MHz. We both got a new square. (FM07 / KP42). On 28th I activated KP23 on my trip to Oulu and was able to give a multiplier to Peter, Martin and Bob. Total number of by me activated locators (this year) is now thirteen. The winter is approaching and I think that this was my last mobile activity. But there are still many locators left. Who knows . . . I attach also an image of the map of Finland where I have marked the squares I have activated this year.



Thank you for your excellent report and image Erki. IK2RMZ also feels strongly about violation of the band plan when big contests are taking place. Martin felt so strongly that he sent this mail to CQWW.

To whom it may concern,

Once more, the CQWW RTTY contest yielded massive sub band abuse. The IARU band plans are gentlemen's agreements which should not be sacrificed for a few points more in a contest. You demand fair play or "sportsmanlike" behavior from the participants and you name small sins like arranged spotting in the rules. However, you don't mention IARU band plans at all.

Could you please consider an update of your rules? Please name acceptable frequencies in the rules and impose sanctions on unsportsmanlike behavior. The overwhelming majority of all hams consider sub band abuse as unsportsmanlike.

73 de IK2RMZ. Martin, Varese, Italy.

Martin had written to me with his ladder log and went on to say;

I had been on the air in order to chase Finnish counties because OH7QR was on tour again. It was really annoying that RTTY contest stations came down even below 14050.

It had discouraged him enough to not try the ladder! It is so annoying when the band plans are ignored! Sadly, the organisers seem to hide behind the statement that they are a "Gentlemans agreement" And therefore do not enforce sanctions on participants, such as removing their entry and naming and shaming the individual(s) concerned.... This difference of opinion has been rumbling on for years!

From Stan. K4UK.

I had a nice chat on the 3rd with John, G3GUA - FISTS # 467 on 10.123 MHz for grid IO90 I was really pleased on the 26th to work Erkki, OH7QR - first time ever. We had 539 signals and had a 17 minute QSO on 18.085 MHz. So that gave me Grid KP42. Also enjoyed a chat on the 30th with Tom, G3KEF when he answered my CQ on 10.118 MHz. It had been 7 years since our last QSO. That 27 minute QSO gave me Grid JO01. Still get a big kick out of operations on the WARC Bands. Hopefully I will have a QSO this year on 12 Meters. So far no answers to my periodic CQ's on that band. - Hi !

73, Stan - K4UK

I notice that 30m never ceases to provide rewarding contacts for members... Also 17m has its surprises in the current conditions. I well remember my first QSO across the pond on 12m with FISTS member. NOBZM. Lets hope that good condx will return soon to the higher bands.

And from Martin IK2RMZ with some information which may interest you.

Hi Robert,

Just in case you know someone interested in the Italian castles award. I am activating Castle reference DCI VA025 for three more weeks. I did even print a special QSL with the picture in

the attachment. The name of the reference is TORRI DI BARZA (Barza Towers) which is right what you see here.



If interested check www.dcia.it I am available for skeds. However, all the top runners in the WARC contest have already worked me during the activation. 73 Martin.

Contact Martin if you're interested in making a sked and receiving a special QSL for the contact. Martin can be contacted via QRZ.com

And from Peter. G4LHI. A consise round up of his ladder and WARC Activity for the month.
As ever, always a pleasure to hear from you Peter.

Hello Robert,

I attach my reports & claims for September Ladder & WARC Band Challenge. Firstly the Ladder Activity.

Quite active again this month and very nice to find some old familiar callsigns appearing again and hope they will continue to join us on the ladder regularly. Very many thanks to those guys and of course the good old stalwart members, and non members, that keep the ladder well supported and secure for those of us climbing!

Looking forward to the October Ladder but don't forget about the clocks. They go back one hour Sunday morning 26th Oct, to GMT. So the second ladder session will start at 1400 local and log time.

Now the WARC Challenge.

Quite a busy month again, a fair bit of activity but the bands were not open quite as much as expected, however, very enjoyable as always. Not quite as many new grids as August, but strangely the same number of actual QSO's, thanks to a lot more one point non-members, perhaps, with the nice long chats about our activities, future Fists Members hi!

I was lucky to find three new members and grids, N5XZ, Allen, EL29: IZ3FJV, Vic, JN66: & W8LJ, Don, EN80: many thanks guys. QSL's in next batch.

Erkki, OH7QR & Bob, G6GUN, were on their travels again. I managed to work Erkki in a new grid KP23, Karsamaki, many thanks again my dear friends. Hope others were lucky to find you in these mobile grid locations?

A brief summary of my September WARC log. 164 QSO's for 212 point and 8 multies.

My 8 September multies are;

N5XZ, Allen, EL29: IZ3FJV, Vic, JN66: HA5AK, George, JN97: HA8MT, Fero, KN07: K8NNQ, Roy, FM14: W8LJ, Don, EN80: OH7QR/M, Erkki, KP23: & SP6JOE, Joe, JO80:

Very many thanks again to those new members in the new grid squares & also of course to those members & non-members not already mentioned in my report, but all the QSO's very much appreciated, also the five stations worked for the maximum of four QSO's again this month, Bob, Derek, Erkki, Stan & Tony, look forward to 4 again in October. I also had four QSO's during the month with CN2IPA, Gab, IM50, Agadir in Morocco, International Police Association, non member.

That's all for now folks, very many thanks for yet another great month. Don't forget our UK clocks go back one hour on Sunday 26 th October, so will not have to stay up quite so late to work over the pond for a few months, but up earlier in the mornings for our down-under friends!!

73/88 to all, have fun on the key, & good DXing, take care,

Peter G4LHI # 2219 IO92

[Thank you for your time and effort with putting together a concise round-up Peter.](#)

[I've heard from Colin Turner; G3VVT. President of FOC with news of an interesting event planned for 2009. I hope you'll make a note of this in your diary.](#)

Invitation to CW and QRP Clubs

I am writing to all fellow CW operators whether QRP or QRO to inform them of a Straight key or Bug Key Activity Day they may be interested in joining.

FOC has recently decided to have a change in its ethos and be more outward looking and engage more with fellow CW operators. To that end the club has decided on the following event early in January 2009. Quoting from our regular Newsheet publication

‘After talking to a few members at the FOC Birdlip Annual Dinner about the ‘Camelback’ Begali key offered as a raffle prize and asking if there was any interest in the traditional pump key on the FOC Reflector, I have received numerous positive replies from three Continents regarding a Straight Key Weekend early in 2009.

The 3rd of January has been suggested as fairly free with no major contests on the bands and you are duly invited to operate on the 80m, 40, and 30m bands with your straight key, bug key or any other mechanical keying device, (I leave it up to you!). The timing will follow the BWQP event and start at 0000z and finish at 2359z although I suggest the following preferred operating times 0700z – 0900z, 1100z –1300z, 1400z -1700z, and 2000z - 2300z to cater for DX contacts.

Please send your logs by email or post to me before the start of the Marathon and I will endeavour to insert your comments in Focus along with the picture of the key you were using if you have one. Please tell me of the best fist heard for both bug and pump key.

To promote our new ethos of CW club interaction and I am going to inform ‘FISTS’ and ‘GQRP’ of our activities so it might be good idea to get some practise in before then! - G3VTT President FOC 2008/2009’

Please inform your members by whatever means and we look forward to seeing you all on the day.

For those who are not aware. More information can be found here

<http://www.firstclasscw.org.uk/>

Also some news from Paul Schreier HB9DST of the Helvetia Telegraphy Club. (HB9HTC)

ITU to Dedicate Morse Experiment Site in Switzerland as First Ever Telecommunications Heritage Site

On Tuesday, 26 September 2008 -- for the first time in its history -- the International Telecommunications Union will recognize a site for its inestimable contribution to our telecommunications heritage.

This honour will be granted to the township of Salvan, in Valais, Switzerland, close to the town of Martigny and only a few kilometers from the French border and near Mount Blanc.

It was here in 1895 where Guglielmo Marconi carried some of his first experiments in wireless telegraphy, including the first wireless transmissions beyond 1.5 km.

The Salvan Marconi Foundation, in association with the ITU, had the great pleasure of inviting the public to a series of lectures and to the official ceremony and reception that marked this worldwide first. Among those in attendance were:

Yves Fournier, President of the Marconi Foundation

Giuseppe Deodata, Italian Ambassador to Switzerland

Claude Roch, State Counselor of the Canton of Vaud

Princess Elettra Marconi Giovanelli

H. Touré, General Secretary ITU

Pascal Couchepin, President of the Swiss Confederation

Daniel Kägi, HB9IQY, President of USKA (Union of Swiss Shortwave Amateurs)

In addition, elected members of the general secretariat of the ITU and representatives of the scientific, cultural and political world will also attend the event.

Part of the ceremonies was the dedication of a plaque that the ITU placed on the site to commemorate the first wireless transmissions beyond 1.5 km carried out by Guglielmo Marconi in 1895

Thank you Paul for this fine piece of news. Paul is the Swiss EUCW communications Manager. More information can be found at the Marconi Foundation (Switzerland). Their web site is at;

www.fondation-marconi.ch

Here are the ladder and WARC tables.

Firstly the WARC Table.

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				1785	11720	8845	QRO
IK2RMZ	137	182	115	201	325	158	119	223	80				1540	85130	9000	QRO
K4UK	23	83	42	81	92	92	106	220	143				882	120105	840	QRO
G6GUN	34	38	61	103	99	89	75	56	17				572	49	28028	QRO
OH7QR	87	57	101	66	87	59	59	38	33				587	22	12914	QRO
W4YE	32	48	46	15	46	14	29	60	61				351	34	11934	QRO
MØDRK	20	33	45	31	52	33	29	21	15				279	23	6417	QRO
KA3NZR	0	1	26	2	12	28	29	20	4				122	28	3416	MIX
G8XGQ	14	24	11	16	26	27	17	19	12				166	15	2490	QRO
W4FCR ©	0	11	0	14	8	9	8	30	14				94	27	2538	QRO
2E0TEK	0	0	0	0	44	0	21	30	0				95	12	1140	QRO
DL1GBZ/DP6M	0	0	117	0	21	18	0	0	27				183	4	732	QRO
K4ORD	3	13	9	7	0	0	1	3	4				40	8	320	QRP
G0XAH	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0				33	4	132	QRO
PA3AFF	0	0	0	0	1	10	8	6	0				25	5	125	QRO

And the Ladder

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
G6GUN	22	34	43	37	43	40	36	35	32				322
G4LHI	30	25	37	32	36	37	35	34	36				302
IK2RMZ	15	33	18	24	9	17	25	25	15				181
OH7QR	14	27	7	14	14	21	15	9	12				133
MØDRK	16	10	18	15	17	10	11	13	11				121
G8XGQ	16	19	8	0	16	13	12	13	7				104
MØJRQ	24	13	8	0	0	0	0	0	0				45
2E0TEK	0	0	0	0	21	0	12	4	0				37
G0MRH	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0				9

With just 3 months left, and just 20 points seperating the top two; I get the feeling that G6GUN and G4LHI are to be busy during the final quarter! May the best man win! (Hi)

Thats all from me for another month. Till next time, Keep well, keep "bashing the brass"

73. MØBPT.



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