

# International Morse Preservation Society



# KEY NOTE



Founded in 1987 by the late Geo Longden, G3ZQS

Recommended calling QRGs: 1.818, 3.558, 7028, 10.118, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

## *Spring/Summer Edition 2008*



### Club Goals

*Further the use of CW  
Encourage newcomers to use Morse Code  
Engender Friendships among members*

**And remember  
"Accuracy Transcends Speed , Courtesy at all Times"**

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**FISTS UK WEB SITE URL:- [HTTP://WWW.FISTS.CO.UK](http://www.fists.co.uk)**

**"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend."**

## **FISTS Who's Who?**

Many members that I meet at rallies often comment on they have no idea of who does what and so don't know who to contact for their questions. I Hope this helps.

Editor: Paul Webb M0BMN E-mail paul@fists.co.uk Contact Details:-  
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Wolverhampton WV4 5RF  
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If you have any comments on the content or distribution of Keynotes then I'm your man! Also if you need info about Rallies that we are attending or if you have any articles for publication.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary  
John Griffin M0CDL E-mail John@fists.co.uk  
35 Cottage Street,  
Kingswinford DY6 7QE

If you have questions about subs due or membership applications the please contact John for help.

Activity Manager: Robert Walker M0BPT Email Activitys@fists.co.uk  
125, Devereux Road,  
West Bromwich., B70 6RQ.

Any comments and feedback about any of the Activities that FISTS run or information for inclusion in the contests and activities section of the newsletter can be sent to Rob.

QSL Manager: Chuck Spence M0AVW E-mail m0avw1@ntlworld.com  
Contact Details:-  
32 Woodford Walk  
Harewood Park,  
Thornaby., TS17 0LT

QSL cards and questions about the FISTS QSL Buro should be addressed to Chuck who looks after the Sub managers for different calls

News Group / Forum Manager MOBLT  
Mark Waldon E-mail forum@fists.co.uk

Mark looks after the Yahoo group FISTS and can help with any problems you may have with accessing the forum or issues arising from it.

Club Sales Officer: Anne Webb Email Sales@fists.co.uk  
40 Links Road, Penn ,  
Wolverhampton, WV4 5RF

If you're looking for club badges, QSL cards ,car stickers etc Anne's your Man, err Woman Hi.

There are other people that help with the running of FISTS.  
We have a number of QSL Sub managers that are working hard in the back-ground to keep fists alive and well.

G4's.  
Mr Jim Steel - M0ZAK  
6 CENTRAL AVENUE  
Shepsted  
LE12 9HP

G1,G2,G5,G6,G7,G8  
& Specials.GB,GX etc.  
Mr Rob Walker - M0BPT  
125 Devereux Road  
West Bromwich  
B70 6RQ

M0's, M5's, M3's 2E0's etc  
Mr Glenn Waring - M0AYI  
7 Tynedale Terrace.  
Annfield Plain  
Stanley  
Durham  
DH9 7TZ

G3's  
Mr Grant Merrils - G0UQF  
2 East Street  
Darfield  
Barnsley  
S73 9RE

G0's  
Mr Selwyn Auty  
3 Rochford Cres  
Boston  
PE21 9AE

Wales & SWL  
Mrs Mandy Spence  
32 Woodford Walk  
Thornaby  
Cleveland  
TS17 0LT

EU &DX members. If you wish to receive any qsl cards from stations you have worked, could you please send postage in either UK£, US\$, or Euro to M0AVW.  
73. Chuck.

## Subscription Information

A number of members have contacted me to ask the amount to pay for their annual subs, and what by what methods they can make payment.

As you may be aware we are attempting to bring all subscriptions in line with a 1st of April renewal date, this means that if your subscription is due before next April we will adjust the amount you pay to bring you in line with a April renewal, you will not be asked to pay any more than the standard yearly subscription and the simple table below should tell you what to pay, if you do have any problems please feel free to call me, (Or email/write if you wish) and I will sort it out for you.

Subscription due between ;

Dec 07-Feb 08 Pay either £1.50 & renew April 08, or £7.50 & renew April 09

Mar– May 08 Pay £6 and renew April each year.

June-July 08 Pay £4.50 and renew April 09

Aug– Nov 08 Pay £3 and renew April 09

Payments can be made the good old way of cash or cheque; (made payable to FISTS) and sent to The membership sec , MOCDL (address on previous page)

Or if you're feeling modern we can take PayPal payments to [subs@fists.co.uk](mailto:subs@fists.co.uk) but whatever way you pay please include your fists membership number with the payment.

Please check the label on your envelope , it shows when your subs are due in the form of mm/yy e.g. 05/08 would be by May 2008.

Any overpayments will be considered a donation and are always very gratefully received !

## Welcome to the Summer

Welcome to the spring/summer edition of Keynote, I hope Christmas and the new year worked out well for you all, both passed without incident here so that was a relief ! It's a time of year that I don't really like that much with all the mad rushing around, and the pushing and shoving in the shops. Well its over now for another year, I do like to reflect on what the old year as given me and what I want from the next, last year was one that just plodded along here with out any major changes.

This new year has a number of major changes here starting with more building work to knock the two downstairs rooms though to make one larger room, I will be moving the shack down stairs after the building work and should have a nice little corner from where I will be able to spend more time playing radio (I Hope). One thing I was surprised about was how hard it is to get a builder, I must have spoken to 5 or 6 different ones before anyone turned up to give me a quote. Then I ended up chasing them for their price. I guess the floods of last year must have given them that much work that my little job was of little interest to them. It would just help if they would say that from day one instead of saying they will call round at a certain time and date for them to just let us down. Moan over ! Anyway 99% of the work is now done, that's why Keynote is for this one occasion a combined spring/summer edition. The room and PC I use for typing this out has been out of service for a while and stopped me getting the spring edition out. One humorous (well it wasn't at the time!) event that happened during the rebuild occurred the night before the new hall, stairs and landing carpet was fitted. Picture this, its 11:30 pm, we have been waiting for Chris to go to bed (my Son) so we could get the rest of the old carpet up. We finally have the last bit of carpet up from the top of the landing and Anne had mopped the floor nice and clean ready for the new carpet to be fitted at 9am in the morning. I was just going to bed ready for a early start for work in the morning when i walk across the floor boards and noticed a creak that had been there for the last 10 years.

As quick as a flash i decided to fix that while I have a chance, a quick nip down to the shed and I had my power driver in my hand and a minute later the floor board was screwed down with out a creak to be heard. Standing back to admire my handy work I noticed a small damp patch around the head of one screw. Then it hit me, the central heating pipes ran across the landing and into the old shack!

You've guessed it. I had screwed straight into the water pipe. By now that damp patch was growing and panic was setting in. I turned the water off and had to drain the system with a length of old hose pipe. It wouldn't have been so bad but it was midnight now and the carpet fitters are due in 9 hours.

Like many of us in our hour of need I turned to my father for help and 30mins later the sound of his old diesel series 2 land rover could be heard pulling up outside. After a few expletives the floor board was up and the pipe soldered. By about 2am the floorboards where back down and all was calm again. I'm glad to say the carpet fitters turned up on time and now we have carpet down again, the first time since Christmas!

Let this be a lesson to any DIYers out there, think before your drill!  
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

FISTS will be having a busy year, we are planning what rallies to attend and I am sure we will be disappointing some people, we get invited to a number of rallies and would like to attend more than we do but each rally costs money with transport, table fees, etc and we do not want to use up all the clubs funds, last year we had to pay for badges, car stickers, key rings, etc , so that's something we don't need to spend money on this year which is a help, We will be at Donnington and maybe one other rally this year but more on that later.

Last edition we seem to have had another printer gremlin, and a few editions went out with 2 blank pages, if you had this happen to you and you would like new copy please get in touch and I will send you one. I have spoken to the printers and they will be taking steps to avoid this problem in the future, also the chief envelope stuffer, the XYL, will be doing more random checks of the booklets to check for problems.

### **Club Project News**

A number of members took part in the Small wonder labs SW+ club project a couple of years ago, well i have been asked by a few people if we could do it again, of course we can and I have emailed Dave at small wonder labs to work out a price for his kit. He now offers a purpose made case for the little kit that makes it look much more professional than the cases we used in the last project.

If you are interested in obtaining a kit drop me a email or letter to my address in the "Who's Who " pages at the from of the newsletter.

### **FISTS Down under Visits UK**

As I write this Ralph ZL2AOH (who looks after FISTS Down under is touring around Europe, Ralph had a busy schedule and it was hoped that we would all meet up for a nice chat during his time over here, Unfortunately due to a set of unfortunate events we didn't meet up. We hope that Ralph had a good time over here and that his other planed events worked out for him. I'm sure he will be putting together a story of his travels in the FISTS down under newsletter which, with his permission will be relayed to you in our newsletter at a later date.

## Elecraft K3

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Well after around nine months of waiting K3 Serial number 207 turned up on a dark and wet afternoon in January. I ordered the 100 watt kit version and so quickly set about putting it all together. The kit differs from most other Elecraft kits in as much it's a none solder kit, mind you when you unpack it you will realise that there are still a good number of parts to assemble to make the transceiver. (See Fig 1)



Fig 1 The main Parts Box emptied ready to begin.

It soon goes together and before long starts to look more like a radio. It may be worth doing a parts inventory before you start but I must admit that I just jumped in and got started.



The Manual is well laid out and the build is easy if you just take your time and follow the guide line by line. Soon the radio is put together and its time to calibrate it, this in the past would be a major problem without a bank full of test equipment but thanks to the excellent job done by the designers the K3 is self calibrating



All we need to do is select calibrate in the menu and let it sort it self out, the only part that really needs any help is the final frequency calibration , but I found that it was only a few hundred hertz of anyway before I touched it. To calibrate the master oscillator I tuned into the BUX beacon on 50.000MHz set the radio to CW and zero beated the beacon against the radios spot tone. If you do this make sure the radio as been left running for a while for the temperature to settle, I left mine a hour or so. After the calibration I tested the K3 against a good frequency counter and found it to be just about bang on, I did note that when I left the radio to cool down and then checked again before it had chance to warm up it was around 40 Hertz low at 50Mhz but soon pulled this back and then remained rock solid. I only ordered the standard 5ppm oscillator but for those that want it a 1ppm (correctable via firmware to 0.5ppm) version is available.



The K3 running its own internal calibration procedures, Nice and easy.

Once the radio is calibrated it is ready to go, but I ordered the 100W PA so its back to the workbench to get that fitted now. The PA module fits in with ease, and I must say the inside of the K3 looks very neat and tidy, the PA is cooled by two decent size fans that are controlled in 4 speed steps, all of the steps are nice a quite and if you have played with the K2 you will find that even the fastest speed is quiet. I had a FT2000 for a while and I found the fan noise to be objectionable when it kicked in so I was a little worried that the K3 would be noisy too.



The Inside View of K3 S/N 207

It was soon all together and time to put it on air, now the irony of it, after waiting nine months for the kit to arrive I decided to go deaf the weekend that it arrives, just a ear infection but it left me completely deaf in my left ear and affected hearing in the right one too. It took nearly 2 weeks before my hearing came back and in fact that is only a couple of days before I wrote this!

It gave me chance to have a look at the way this set would work on digi modes, with its built in PC interface I was very pleased with how well it worked, the bandwidth control was smooth and I could set it to anything I wanted from 6KHz right down to 50Hz in CW mode a little higher in SSB modes.

An unusually feature with the K3 is the built in Data mode decode function, this set will actually decode CW/PSK/RTTY. Other modes will be added via a simple user firmware upgrade feature. The decoded data is displayed in the VFO B section of the display . It does need a well sent bit of CW for it to decode, but seems about as good as most PC software packages that do the same thing.

Talking of displays, the display is very sharp and clear, a pleasure to sit in front of, nothing like the display on the old FT1000MPs that bleed terribly.

I was concerned that the cooling offered by the twin fans could be a little low since it was so quite so I cranked the output up to 100watts (MAX seems about 120W) put a dummy load on the output and gave it keydown for about 60 secs. The display can be set to display many different bits of useful information, one of which is the PA temp, so I watched this while holding the key down, the temp slowly raised up to around 50C during the test, and quickly fell back on key up.

So how well does it work on CW? Well I have played with a few top end radios over the years and always come back to the K2 for CW. My K2 I must say is a great radio , it has DSP and all the features that can be fitted. It is a very very quite receiver, it always amazes me and others that try it. This means the K3 will have to go some to beat it. I set the 2 sets up with a antenna changeover and tuned around the band, I was surprised by the results.

I found a strong signal on 80m and set both radios to it, on the K2 the audio was what I had come to expect, strong and clear, very nice with very little noise. I switched to the K3 and listened to the same signal, well if anything it just matched the K2 no problem, it sounded good but just not better. Next I found a weaker signal and compared them. The K2 still sounded good but I could hear the signal almost fade away at times which would make it a more difficult copy. I switched to the K3 and the signal was a better copy without doubt. Considering the level of performance the K2 gives its hard for any radio to match it so I am more than happy with the performance of the K3, the filters are also better than the K2's . The K3 allows the user to just dial any bandwidth you want from 50Hz upwards, even at 50Hz the audio was good with very little ringing effect that can often be found at such a narrow bandwidth, I order a 500Hz filter for the K3 that was out of stock when my kit was shipped so I was using the stock 2.7KHz filter and the RF DSP to set the bandwidth, it works great, even with out the narrow filter. I didn't find any signals that caused the AGC to pump, maybe in a contest with a better antenna like a beam the results would be different but for me I was happy.

The only other thing I wanted from the K3 was a good general short-wave receiver, when I ordered the K3 I ordered the extra AM 6KHz filter, this I was a little disappointed with, when I selected AM and tuned to a broadcast station I found the audio a little restricted, in fact I wondered if I had done something wrong during the build, I noticed that the max bandwidth that I could set was 3Khz, previously I had noticed that I could select up to 6Khz when I was in SSB so this added fuel to fire of "have I done something wrong?" It turns out that all was correct, in AM the 6KHz filter needs to cover both sidebands and gives 3KHz to both sidebands, a total of 6KHz, the

The simple fix is tune to the station you want and then select either LSB or USB , now up to 6KHz is available and the audio sounds much better. This is only a work around for me as the better solution is to fit the FM Module. The FM module will allow around 9KHz bandwidths on AM so the bandwidth control will allow for a high quality AM setting. The FM Module and Filter is still to be made available and I have one on order.

Over all the K3 is a very interesting transceiver, it is still to undergo the testing that the big labs will be doing and so keep your eyes open for the reviews in the Ham Press in the near future.



The K2 and K3 in the shack

I have put together a 10 minute video about the build and have now put it on you tube for the world to see. If you want a look here is the URL

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=8GAMSyy9zrg> That's part 1 &

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=aQKTgdsCIY> That's part 2

## GOOD BUG SENDING TECHNIQUE

David J. Ring, Jr., N1EA

*"Dave shares with us his Good Bug sending technique"*

Your wrist is "rocked" with the same motion that you use when opening a door knob, the wrist and arm lie on the desk and rock with that motion. The position in which you assume to use the bug would be just like you would grab a door knob or to receive a beverage bottle. You roll your wrist on the fleshy part of your hand back and forth. No finger movements at all!

Finger motions are not to be used as they give carpal tunnel syndrome (glass arm) the idea is to rock the wrist with a bug and cootie key. Unfortunately the paddle used with an electronic keyer must be tapped with fingers at high speeds :(

I know it might be silly to say this, but it is much easier to send when both feet are on the floor not angled to the left or right, but straight and sender's body is straight and not turned. It is much easier - try it if you don't believe this.

## BUG CLEANING

The following is time consuming but I find it always works and I do this routinely and it takes time but it saves time because it eliminates problems.

If your bug is old, take it completely apart and clean (especially) the contacting surfaces, including the underneath connecting strips (especially around the screws), the countersunk hole for the grounded binding post, the silver contacts, the surface where the U shaped dot spring contacts the vibrator, and the two bevelled pins of the trunnion assembly (the pins on which the main lever pivots in the frame), and make sure that the cups into which the pins fit are clean of debris.

I use the cotton wadding with metal polish which is sold nationwide, and a stick pencil type eraser to clean the more stubborn parts and then use Flitz metal polish to finish the metal cleaning.

If you have an ultrasonic cleaner (jewellery cleaner) put some ammonia and water in

it, with a few drops of Dawn dish cleaner liquid and use for 15 minutes, then repeat with clean water. I dry everything in a toaster oven for 1 hour at 140 degrees F.

A bug has to swing far enough to compress the U spring - it doesn't send like a paddle - you use your wrist - you shouldn't get tired with this key - if you are, your probably doing it incorrectly. The dash spacing and tension should be adjusted for reliable dashes.

See the "Art and Skill of Radiotelegraphy" by NOHFF available several places and in several languages on the Internet for good advice on sending and general tips.

## CONTACT ALIGNMENT

Old bugs have a screw which holds the lever against the trunnion post. This can be adjusted up and down. Later bugs do not, and the alignment of the dot contact and the dash contact must be done by adjusting the top and bottom trunnion screws. The bottom trunnion screw is held fast (and will strip unless this screw is loosened) by a screw on the rear side of the frame. You must use a long handled screw driver to get to this screw! Loosen this screw and you will be able to loosen and tighten the bottom trunnion screw and raise and lower the position of the lever.

The lever should be adjusted so that the height of the lever / mainspring / vibrator assembly is such that the contact on the U shaped dot spring is vertically aligned with the dot post contact.

The alignment of the dash contact can be done (after the above is done) by loosening the small contact plate and adjusting.

All final adjustments should be done so that the contacts are touching and completely aligned so that the contacts meet as fully and directly as possible.

## DOT ADJUSTMENT

Bugs used for radiotelegraphy vs bugs used for landline telegraphy were set to approximately 60% of a VOM meter reading in resistance.

If your power is 1500 watts key down, it will still be 1500 watts on each dot closure - but the dots will give different meter ballistic movements different results - but rest assured they are still full power. That being said, dots with a dot/space ratio of about 100:60 OR 1.67:1 will give better copy than dots with a 1:1 ratio during radio conditions on typical hf bands. Or instead of 1.00 to 1 - dots sound better about 1.5 to 1.67 to 1.

## CONTACTS

If you buy some silver cleaner you can clean them. If you can find 1500 grit wet/dry sandpaper, you can smooth them out. You can also buy a burnishing tool from GC Electronics in the US which is an extremely fine file that is about 1/4 inch wide and about 1/32 inch thick which was designed especially for that purpose. I use 800 grit wet/dry sandpaper (very lightly and with care) then 1500 grit wet/dry and finally I polish with Flitz metal polish which is a very very low grit polish;



The contacts if done this way will come out like mirrors.

## BUG ADJUSTMENT

Old-timers insisted upon sizable gaps. In fact, a significant gap for the dit lever moved against a significant spring resistance sets up a good vibration of the mainspring for producing dits and avoiding scratchy and bouncing dots. The limit screw adjustment for the damper is adjusted just so the end of the swinging pendulum contacts the damper. The bug is also quieter when the damper doesn't move as dramatically. The dot spring will have more tension than you might be accustomed to. The spring tension returns the lever after sending dots quickly and it also makes the lever move with more force which sets up a stronger impact on the dot spring which results in much stronger and less problematic dots. This is the cure for poor dots if the contacts and the other connections are clean.

## HARD TO FIND PROBLEMS

When you have bad dots, the hard to diagnose problems that I've routinely found are: The terminal connectors are loose and the round cylinder shaped nut is not holding the base tightly when the bug sends dots the contact is intermittent. The dot spring is loose on the vibrating arm. When the contacts crash, the spring conducts intermittently. Similar happens for all the contact path on the connecting straps - if one is loose or corroded, it will produce poor dots.

73

David J. Ring, Jr., N1EA  
Former Commercial Radiotelegrapher

Thanks David for the interesting Article....Paul MOBMM

## ***The Garden Fence***

This small section is dedicated to the un-sung heroes of FISTS. The XYL's (or OM's) that let us play radio. Lets face it some times we can get a little carried away with our hobby. Here's a example, one of FISTS admin staff who will remain nameless waited for his wife to go to work one morning and then got friends around to put up a 40ft vertical pole in the middle of their garden with another pole at the bottom to allow a 80m Windom to be put up, he didn't have nice neat guy wires but instead used thick white rope, and lots of it, it was guyed to fences, sheds and anything that was in the right place. To say his wife was not impressed on her return was a understatement. Never the less he got way with it for about a year or so. I don't think it impressed the neighbours to much either as soon after he got a visit from the council planning dept. But since the chap that called was interested in "ham" radio our man got away with it. It took a full year before the nagging level persuaded Him that it may be a better plan to take down the "ships mast" as the neighbours called it and replace it with a simple and much more discreet end fed long wire. I'm not so sure that he would be so understanding if his wife had decided to convert the living room into a pottery studio or the like to satisfy her hobbies!

If you would like to say thanks to your partner for their understanding please drop me a line. Its nice to say thanks.

If you are fed up with your partners love of radio then drop me a line and feel free to vent your anger here. If you have advice for other "Morse Wives" then again this is the place for it. At rallies we meet many wives of members that have been dragged to the show for the day. To these women I am very grateful for allowing their partners to come over and say hello. I know I'm luckily my wife, Anne, has allowed me to get away with all sorts of radio an-tics over the years and doesn't seem to mind me spending days at rallies promoting FISTS.

## **A Note from Steve G0KYA**

Steve G0KYA says that anyone interested in CW should consider an HF rig with IF DSP as their next purchase. He says that he recently replaced a Yaesu FT920 with an Icom IC-7400 and the digital filtering is amazing. You can choose a bandwidth from 3.6kHz down to just 50Hz if you want, with both soft and hard edges. In addition, twin pass band tuning mean that you can get rid of adjacent QRM too. IF DSP is better then the FT920's AF DSP as you don't get the AGC pumping on busy bands like 40m - this is where the volume goes up and down even though you can't hear the adjacent signal which is masked by the audio DSP, but still causes the AGC to cut back. The Icom has three CW memories too that you load by programming the text you want via the menu and VFO knob, which is easier than having to send it.

Steve says: "This isn't an advert for Icom as many other newer radios have IF DSP, but the ability to select just the bandwidth you want is amazing and makes a big difference when operating CW on crowded bands. I'm a convert now!"

Cheers, Steve G0KYA

## **Anne Webb (FISTS Sales)**

Just to let everyone know that we have a little problem with QSL cards at the moment . We have run out of cards following a number of orders just after Christmas which have used up all our stock, Paul is in the process of getting some new ones printed but for the next few weeks we will not be able to supply any, orders for cards can be placed but there will be a delay while they are printed. Keep a eye on the web site for details when they are back.

Thanks  
Anne

Today we are moving forward at a fast but progressive pace with the technical advances within the hobby of Amateur radio, with the introduction of the state of the art equipment giving rise to greater changes not only to the modern day transceiver and antennas, but to the supporting aids of communication such as photodiode telegraphy Morse paddles and bugs.

Having first got my licence in 1985 as G1RKB I set about not only learning and understanding the skill of the telegraphy operator But to master the finer point's that make a good CW operator, and we are of course all aware that in 1844 saw the birth of the key Due to Samuel Morse along with his assistant Alfred Vail who sent the first official Morse code, from Baltimore to Washington, a demonstration that saw the birth of the correspondent key, within six months vial had perfected the principle on which all keys since then have been based.

Having armed myself with books on telegraphy keys and sounders I came across the lever correspondent key, strange names like the camelback key, Bug's and side swipers, What was I getting into? And then the well known key maker Horace G Martin, known world wide for his fine quality produced range of Vibroplex keys paddles & bugs during the years 1904 to 1960 produced over 16 styles or models of semi automatic keys more than any other manufacturer, and much sort after by key collectors, and Morse enthusiasts, from all corners of the globe giving me much sort after inspiration.

I was soon to learn that Horace G Martin was to produce in 1903 his Autoplex, even as his Autoplex was being sold to telegraphers, Martin was working on a radically improved model which he called the Vibroplex Original,

The very first of what we now know as a bug, and the only difference from the modern chrome and red paddles versions of today is the straight strip of metal attached to the pendulum but by 1906 Martin had changed it to the now familiar “U” shape style of mounting,

All the early Vibroplex keys were custom built by Martin to order in a small shop at his home in Brooklyn.

Then being greatly inspired by the skills of the world speed champion Theodore McElroy a native of Boston Massachusetts USA, who at the age of fifteen could type at the amazing speed of 150 w.p.m. Who as you know become the word speed champion of receiving Morse at the speed of 75.2 WPM on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1939, One of his favourite stunts was to pause in the middle of a high-speed Morse receiving run then possibly take a drink or even take a smoke and then continue to copy without even missing a word, the ability to copy in your head is not unknown today by most of the radio amateur cw operators, But just think for a moment! Ted was also typing from memory and then storing the additional text information in his head until his brain had caught up, just wonderful great skills that man must have had? I certainly have respect for the qualities he had, and recommend the book about his life and skills as a very interesting, and informative read. He was also a well know key maker and produced a number of bug models and inventor of the well known S-600 Super Stream-speed produced in 1941, it is not the scarcest Mac key, but to collectors it's the most desirable, his name was McElroy, but his keys were sold under the name of Mac key's, Not quite so well known is that his became a licensed radio amateur with the call W1JYN he said that it should have been G-I -N as that is what I like to drink,

And in 1936 McElroy teamed up with Reginald Adams G2NO of Wolverhampton England.

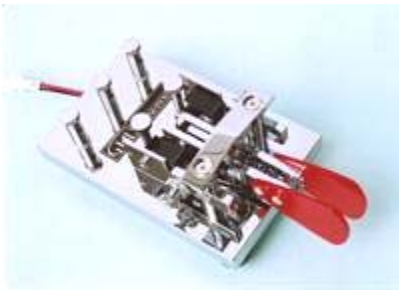
They had a very good business with an efficient delivery of American radio produces to a shop called Eve's radio limited, Adams was later to make his wartime contribution, he joined at the War at the governments request because of his radio expertise, Britain's Wartime sabotage organization the special operations executive, the S.O.E secretly trained and equipped agents and placed them in enemy territory to stimulate the resistance, Adams work for the SOE was important and dangerous as well, he was parachuted into Poland many times during the War, it was the kind of top secret operations that could of course not freely be discussed with his friends and family perhaps because of this Adams missions and exploits evolved in to legend one story is that precious radio communications equipment was installed by the SOE in Rosendale road West Dulwich England, where it was operated under cover of a radio shop run by the \British agent Adams which was later to be bombed out by a bundle of high explosives, Adams was to be decorated by the Polish government for his efforts and he was conceded to be one of Britain's greatest Heroes in the eyes of Ted McElroy

It was not until the mid 1930's that we saw the introduction of the Semi-Automatic key, which came in kit form from the telegraph Apparatus Company of Chicago.

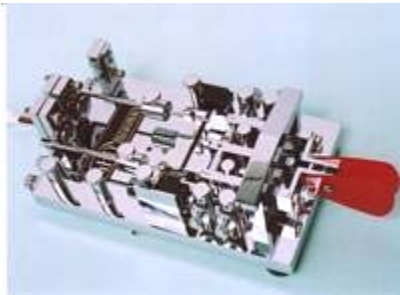
1939 and primarily for amateur Radio use saw the fully Automatic key of Melvin E Hanson (W6MFY) of California, it was advertised as the Meleham Valiant, it was actually two completely separate units mounted on one base, one to make the dots and the other to create a series of dashes the mainspring on the pendulum achieve the dash time making the spring that is attached to the pendulum three times longer than the dot spring they were true classics right from the start, Approximately 500 Valliant's were personally made by Hanson or his assistant the Schultz tool and Machine Manufacturing co California After the second word war Production was resumed but by then the electronic keys were to give into to much competition.

Vibroplex finally joined the electronic revolution by producing the Vibrokeyer a single-lever paddle whose parts all come from the original bug base and a small Philips head screw filled the tapped hole in the left arm where the bug's lever stop screw would have gone. It was not until 1979 that Vibroplex was introduced the iambic, as the name states, a dual lever electronic keyer paddle and the early models show that even then the original bug frame was still being used with tapped hole in the left arm intended for the bug's main lever return spring adjustment screw. There has of course been many instrument makers turned key and paddle makers over the years and far too many for me to list but I'm sure that you are familiar with such names as Kent, Schurr, Bencher, Hi Mound, Samson, and Gordon Crowhurst G4ZPY, the latter who did a 24ct gold plated twin paddle for me for the millennium described by some as looking like a stunning gattalin gun.

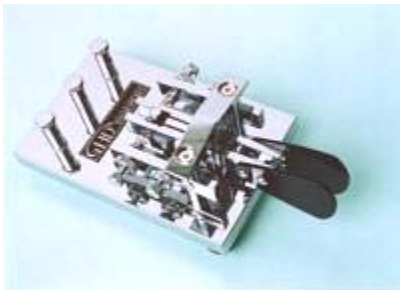
Early 1990 also saw a new and interesting type of contact paddle adjustment was the phenomenal Mercury magnetic paddle introduced by Steve Nurkiewicz (N2DAN) these beautiful hand made paddles used magnets instead of springs to adjust the arm tension I wrote a letter to Steve late in 1999 to order one of his hand made Mercury paddles but was saddened to receive a lovely letter from a friend of his wife informing me of his death, other magnetic paddles of interest are the Hensley paddles which look like stunning pieces of jewellery, and the Bengali magnetic paddles



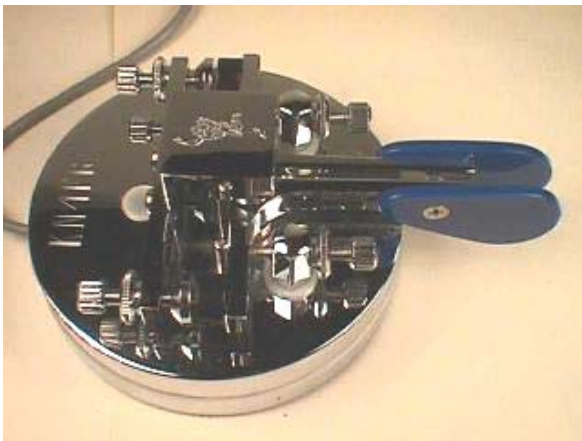
This is the GHD model GD 307 that has optical contacts notice the small lead to provide power to the Paddle contacts



And this is the GD 907s Model fully- Auto Bug with optical contacts



The GN 307 Iambic standard twin Paddle



A Mercury magnetic paddle By N2DAN

*Thanks Ray. Always a pleasure to read your articles and I'm sure we will have more to come (I Hope!) Paul.*



## Yeovil 24th QRP Convention

John (M0CDL) and Myself attended the Yeovil 24th QRP Convention this year, We had received a free invite from the Yeovil radio club and so it was a good way to promote FISTS down south at minimum cost to our club. We spoke to many old members and as always came away with a good few new members too.



MOBMN (Me!) manning the stand at Yeovil.

Talking to one of the organiser's Gary 2E0BFJ. The rally was a success and they are already planning their 25th and hope to make that a real bumper event.

The rally is the final stage of the well known Yeovil fun run event and this year the overall winner was M0PTR who won by just one point ! Well done Peter!

While we where at the rally we spoke to many CW fans but maybe the youngest was the Daughter of one of the organisers who surprised John and myself as she proved that she could send and receive CW by using our test your Morse computer and Key.



Molly, our youngest CW Fan? And also a lover of Crystal sets  
(One of the things i love playing with too)

This years event was sponsored by WALFORD ELECTRONICS who kindly supplied the winner, Peter MOPTR with a voucher for £40 off of a Walford kit of his choice. We hope to hear him using it in next years Fun Run. Below is a picture of Peter receiving his certificate from Gary 2E0BFJ (Fun Run organiser)



I would like to say thank you to Gary on behalf of FISTS for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us during the day. Good luck with the plans for 2009 and the 25th event.

We live in interesting times for CW: following the general abandonment of CW as a requirement for access to the HF Amateur Bands, many predicted that CW would suffer an early and largely unlamented death. In fact there seems to be more interest in CW now than for many a year among new and mature operators alike – this is the Good News.

The Bad News is that many of these new recruits to the joys of CW are struggling to become competent and accomplished CW operators ... and too often failing. We established CW fans – and especially FISTS members - are regularly encouraged to make life easier for these very welcome new recruits to our ranks by slowing down to their speed and by also designating certain frequencies where QRS QSOs are encouraged,

I have no problem with the first – a 'QRS' by the faster operator to match the speed of the slower one should be an automatic common courtesy. Always provided (and here comes the controversial bit) that the speed of the slower operator falls within the range of speeds that are commonly to be found on the bands and which allow comfortable and effective QSOs to take place. If I had to commit to a figure, I would say that the absolute minimum speed for answering a CQ, or for calling CQ with a reasonable expectation of a reply, is 15 WPM. And this is why I disagree with designated frequencies which encourage much slower speeds.

Now I'm not being bloody-minded just for the sake of it or through some misplaced sense of elitism; my objection to what has come to be called 'QRS CW' (and thereby suggesting some sort of legitimacy for it) is that it goes against what I believe is an immutable rule for the aspiring CW op – you can't learn to send and receive CW quickly by sending and receiving CW slowly!

It is often said that Practice Makes Perfect so, it seems logical to me that QRS practice serves only to make you a perfect QRS operator. Think about it: if merely having lots of CW QSOs enabled one automatically to improve one's ability to send and receive CW, the CW allocations in our bands would be filled with high speed operators and the longest established operators would be the fastest of the lot!

No, CW is what you do on the air when you are competent to do so; CW practice is what you do off the air in order to get competent. As an example, I, personally, am currently working on achieving an increase of 10 WPM in my sending and receiving speeds – this is something that I have to do off the air because I won't get faster by continuing to have QSOs at my current speed and to attempt to have faster QSOs with established QRQ operators when I am not competent to do so is just to invite a painful and unpleasant experience for both ops.

There is nothing revolutionary about the idea of practice as a discrete activity to improve performance. Indeed, it is a fundamental activity for all who aspire to better things. A runner won't get faster in events by going on practice runs with slower runners no matter how often he does so, nor can he simply enter elite events and expect to keep up. The way to success for the runner is to follow a structured training program outside of the events that he hopes to excel in – so it is too for those of us who have not yet reached our desired level of competence as CW ops.

The real issue – and this brings us the heart of the problem – is that there is a general belief that CW is difficult and painful and that most people will never be able to do it well. In many cases, sadly, this mindset simply brings about a self fulfilling prophecy. I even read an article in RadCom recently where the writer described CW proficiency as something akin to a mystical black art which required a great deal

of belief in psychic mumbo-jumbo to master!

Nothing could be farther from the truth, but there is a lot of bad advice bandied around which, if followed, will lead to pain, disillusionment and, ultimately, abandonment of the goal to become a CW operator.

Much of the current misconception about the most effective way to learn CW was, I believe, fostered by the interim reduction in the required speed for the CW competency test to 5 WPM which, unsurprisingly gave rise to many people setting this as their goal and then expecting to be able to go on the air at this speed in the hope that in so doing their speed would somehow magically increase. In my opinion, the 5 WPM test was nothing more nor less than a blatant ploy to enable almost anyone to gain access to the HF bands without having to become a CW operator.

You can pass a CW 'test' at 5 WPM by simply counting the dots and dashes (I deliberately didn't write 'dits' and 'dahs') in order to recognize what letter has been sent. Indeed it is difficult to do anything else because it's not until the sending speed gets above 15 WPM or so that letters start to take on individual and discrete sounds. So this brings us back to the well tested Farnsworth Method of learning CW in which the letters are learned at an effective word speed of 15 to 20 WPM (faster is better) but the letter spacing is increased to reduce the real word speed to manageable levels for learners. As recognizing the letter sounds becomes easier, the letter gap is gradually reduced until the effective word speed and the true word speed become one and the same.

This is **not** difficult but it does demand dedication and a commitment to daily practice so that the resulting incremental improvements are assimilated and consolidated almost imperceptibly. Aspiring improv-

ers have never had so many tools available to help them as nowadays with PC learning programs and PIC based Morse tutors. But what can you do if you are already in the jaws of the QRS trap?

In my opinion (and I have been there) the quickest way is to abandon all hopes of being able to get gradually quicker by having QRS QSOs and to effectively relearn the code starting with a fast letter speed and 5 letter groups which stop you guessing what letter is coming next... and losing the next word because you guessed wrong!

There is a second thing you can do instead of or, preferably, in addition to the Farnsworth Method practice – and this one flies in the face of all received wisdom about learning to become a seasoned CW op – practice sending using a CW oscillator (or the rig with the CW VOX control turned off).

It is said that you should never try to send until you can receive competently and whilst there is some sound logic behind this, I am, by definition, addressing those who are already using a key – the QRS op who is not getting anymore QRQ despite wanting to and trying to. Most people can send faster than they can receive and this is usually explained by pointing out that sending is a mechanical skill whilst receiving is a mental skill. This may well be true if you are using a pump key but if you are using a paddle key, and especially if you are using iambic keying, it is manifestly not a mechanical skill.

And yet many CW ops stuck at single figure receiving speeds can send CW at speeds well into the teens and recognize any mistakes that they make – so they are in fact subliminally capable of reading CW at fast(er) speeds and this ability can be developed into a conscious skill by regularly sending sample text at a much faster speed than you can handle in normal receiving.

Any CW op will tell you that he or she is capable of having one or two QSOs at a WPM rate faster than their normal comfortable reading speed but then the mental effort becomes too tiring and a QRS is needed. What they don't tell you – unless you ask – is that after sending and receiving faster than normal, on dropping back to their usual speed it suddenly sounds really slow! You can exploit this by doing some fast sending practice before going on the air – say 7/8 WPM faster than normal, and then calling CQ at, say, 2/3 WPM faster than normal. I promise you that your sending will sound really slow to you and – here is the best bit – so will the reply! In order to really exploit this you will need to use a paddle key but learning to do so will give you valuable practice in recognizing letter sounds.

Many (most?) QRS ops have already made a considerable investment in learning CW but there is an old adage that says, “If you keep on doing what you keep on doing, you will keep on getting what you keep on getting.” If you want something different then you have to do something different. Turn the rig off. Turn the PC on in CW Farnsworth mode. Spend time sending to yourself fast. Do it often! When you get up to 15 WPM or so you can give yourself a treat by going back on the air but don't drop the off-air practice... unless you want to remain stuck at 15 WPM!

Go on – have a go. I dare you. In fact I double (figure receiving speed that is) dare you! But most of all I'm looking forward to that QRQ CW rag-chew we are going to have soon. And we will talk about getting over the next speed hurdle by putting away the paper and pencil and learning to copy in your head ... after all you don't copy everything down when you are having a conversation do you? And think how slow and boring the conversation would be if you did that – CW is no different!

Richard Sayer – F5VJD/FISTS 4870

Well thanks Richard for your thoughts on QRS operation, I operate only QRS myself (when i get the chance) and I always try to keep the letter speed up around 13- 15 wpm but extend the gap between letters and words.

I agree that when people extend the length of each letter it makes it very hard to understand and does not really help anyone. Its important to learn CW with the correct sound, in fact many would say if you want to read Morse at 20 wpm then learn it with a letter speed of 20 wpm to start with, otherwise you will have to learn the sound of the letters again at the higher speed.

I feel that most operators running at slow speeds do send letters at a reasonable speed and extend the gap between them. Its only when a operator drops the letter speed t h a t i t b e c o m e s h a r d t o r e a d just like the last line. Some years ago I took the 5 wpm test, I must say that this test is conducted with a letter speed of 12 wpm and the gap between letters is extended to give a overall speed of just 5 wpm. This test does allow people to learn what code sounds like on air and certainly most operators who would be taking the test would not be able to count the dits and dahs as Richard suggests. That's my opinion what's yours?

Anyone any comments?

### **Club QSL cards**

We have run out of QSL cards and I am now getting some more produced. One of our members who is very well known for high quality cards will be producing them for us. Also it make things less work Tony will produce any special cards that members may want. Please make sure you tell him that you are a FISTS member when you contact him for your special cards so that he can give you the special club price.



If you want to see the type of cards that Tony can make for you have a look on his web site

<http://www.lz1jz.com/> or contact him at

**lz1jz1@gmail.com**

If any other member of FISTS wants to offer his services to other members for any "ham" radio service drop me a line

Thanks Paul M0BMN ([paul@fists.co.uk](mailto:paul@fists.co.uk) will find me)

### **A Note from the membership Sec John M0CDL**

I Often get asked how can I pay my subs, well here are the details.

We can take cash, U.K cheque made out to fists,

[paypal-subs@fists.co.uk](mailto:paypal-subs@fists.co.uk)

standing order or direct debit,

Fists Bank Account sort code 77-33-12

Account number is 11234668,

The BIC code is BIC LOYDGB21A31,

IBAN: GB43 LOYD 7733 1211 2346 68,

Members Fees, U.K Posted Keynote £6,

Europe Posted Keynote £8,

DX Posted £11,

Keynote via e-mail £5, to anywhere in the world,

My Home Address can be found on the inside cover of The Keynote,

Thank You,

John M0CDL..

# BRASSPOUNDER

For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge.

Welcome to the first "Round-up" of 2008.

The Activity ladder and WARC Challenge ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> December. Here are the final results for 2007, firstly, the WARC Activity.

Martin. IK2RMZ put in an excellent effort for December but could not quite catch Peter. G4LHI. Who receives the G3ZQS award for the 2007 activity, Congratulations to G4LHI. Award Certificates to IK2RMZ and Stan, K4UK with his excellent third place QRP Score.

\*\*\*\*\*

CALL	TOTAL	MULTI	MASTER	PWR
G4LHI	1342	78	104676	QRO
IK2RMZ	1304	75	97800	QRO
K4UK	660	112	73920	QRP
F2YT	1006	70	70420	QRO
W4YE	654	68	44472	QRO
OH7QR	626	34	21284	QRO
W4FCR©	210	44	9240	QRO
DL1GBZ	333	19	6327	QRO
KA3NZR	184	27	4968	MIXED
SM0PMJ	314	13	4082	QRO
K4ORD	143	27	3861	QRP
2E0TEK	55	5	275	QRO
G8XGQ	28	2	56	QRO
PA3AFF	2	1	2	QRO

And the Activity Ladder results.

<u>CALL</u>	<u>Total</u>
G4LHI	394
M5ABN	247
IK2RMZ	207
OH7QR	109
M0DRK	107
M0JRQ	104
2E0TEK	89
G6GUN	88
GM4WZL	72
G0MRH	51
G8XGQ	39
2E0AYQ	19
PA1SOP	6
PA3AFF	4

Again, G4LHI came out on top with M5ABN and IK2RMZ getting second and third places respectively. Congratulations, and certificates go to the top Three.

\*\*\*\*\*

I've been underwhelmed by the (Lack off) interest for the 21<sup>st</sup> "Coming of age" activity. Just three logs received from FISTS NA members. Thanks for your support. Let's hope that during the year when the other sessions are active, more members may join in. Here are the standings after the 1<sup>st</sup> session.

FISTS	21st	ANNIV	MASTER	LOG	
CALL	POINTS	MULTI	TOTAL	CLASS	
K9AAA	297	3	891	(A)QRO	FISTS NA
WB2MIC	143	2	286	(A)QRO	FISTS NA
K4UK	22	0	22	(A)QRO	FISTS NA

The 2008 WARC Activity got off to a good start with members commenting on the amount of interesting contacts being made, Singapore, Oman, Guyana, Qatar, UAE, Diego Garcia (Chagos Islands) Jamaica, Cayman Islands, and the Pitcairn Islands. A significant number were society members. Dare I suggest that an upturn of the Solar Cycle is beginning to happen? Here's the table for the year so far.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	TOTAL	MULTI	MASTER	PWR
IK2RMZ	137	182	115	201	635	43	27305	QRO
G4LHI	201	182	152	166	701	35	24535	QRO
K4UK	23	83	42	81	229	44	10076	QRO
G6GUN	34	38	61	103	236	18	4248	QRO
OH7QR	87	57	101	66	311	10	3110	QRO
W4YE	32	48	46	14	140	18	2520	QRO
MØDRK	20	33	45	31	129	8	1032	QRO
DL1GBZ/ DP6M	0	0	117	0	117	3	351	QRO
K4ORD	3	13	9	7	32	8	256	QRP
KA3NZR	0	1	26	2	29	7	203	MIX
W4FCR ©	0	11	0	14	25	8	200	QRO
G8XGQ	14	24	11	16	65	3	195	QRO
G0XAH	0	0	33	0	33	4	132	QRO

IK2RMZ has got off to a good start, amassing a healthy amount of multipliers, as has G4LHI and K4UK. Let's hope that many more interesting contacts will be made throughout the year.

\*\*\*\*\*

Let's take a look at the ladder table for 2008

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	TOTALS
G6GUN	22	34	43	37	136
G4LHI	30	25	37	32	124
IK2RMZ	15	33	18	24	90
OH7QR	14	27	7	14	62
M0DRK	16	10	18	15	59
M0JRQ	24	13	8	0	45
G8XGQ	16	19	8	0	43
G0MRH	0	0	9	0	9

G6GUN leads the ladder by the narrowest of margins. Don't forget, the ladder activity is an agreeable place to meet members and work towards awards within FISTS.

\*\*\*\*\*

The winter Keynote 2007 contained information regarding the awards scheme within FISTS. There are a few amendments to the issue which you need to be made aware of, here they are.

Page 30: Text

"Please note the Awards E-Mail applications address [m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk)

By land mail to; Mr R. Walker 125,Devereux Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands.B70 6RQ England."

Will be replaced by:

" Please note the Awards E-Mail applications address [fistsa-wards@comcast.net](mailto:fistsa-wards@comcast.net)

By land mail to; DENNIS G FRANKLIN, 4658 CAPITAN DR. FREMONT CA 94536-5448. USA

All award logs, paper and e-mail, should be sent to Dennis unless it is an award that is particular to a FISTS Chapter, i.e., The G3ZQS WARC Band challenge, 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary challenge etc.”

Page 33: Text

“The Century Awards are available in QRP and 2-way QRP, QRP meaning 5 watts or less output. Please give your power used when applying for the QRP version of the Award.”

Will be replaced by:

“1 X QRP Award, the 1 X QRP Award is earned by working 100 points of FISTS members while you are operating QRP, 5 watts or less. Same point rules as the Basic Century Award. 2 X QRP Award. The 2 X QRP Award is earned by working 100 points of FISTS members while you and the other station contacted are both operating QRP, 5 watts or less. Same point rules as the Basic Century Award. With the exception of the two QRP awards, FISTS Awards are not available as separate QRP awards. This is explained on the following FISTS Awards Web Page, (<http://www.fists.org/awards.html>) as the following NOTE. "NOTE -- If you earn your Basic, Silver, Gold, or Diamond award using QRP, (5 watts or less), please state so at the time of your original application for that award. Your call will be printed on the award as "Your Call - QRP" I do not issue separate awards for the Basic Century, i.e., Basic Century, Basic Century QRP 1 Way, Basic Century QRP 2 Way.”

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### Page 33: Omissions: "The Millionaire Award"

So, you want to be a millionaire? You'll feel like a million bucks when you hang this piece of wallpaper in your shack! This award is simple and obtainable, as well as challenging. You earn it by working a total of a million in FISTS membership numbers. The basic award is for one million points, with endorsement stickers for additional increments of one million. For example, if you work member number 11500 and member number 10000 and then work #379, you'd have a total of 21,879 points. We hope to encourage newer FISTS members to get on the air, since they have "bigger" FISTS membership numbers they will be sought after. You may only claim member numbers for credit once per band, but use as many bands as you want. If you use the WARC's please be sure your contact is a legit QSO. We don't want FISTS to have the reputation of being the ones to spoil the WARC's with hit and run, contest like QSO's. Exchange FISTS numbers on the air and have a little chat - about the weather, your key, your rig, family... Two-way CW contacts only. You do not need to get a QSL confirmation of the QSO - just keep a running total of the FISTS membership number points. Only contacts made on or after January 1, 2006 are valid To claim the award with a paper/ written log, include a log sheet that has the contacted callsign, band & date worked and FISTS number - with the numbers totalled - and DUPE sheets for each of the bands used. Since you may work a FISTS number on different bands for credit, separate dupe sheets for each band are necessary to help the Awards Manager verify your log. Logs submitted electronically do not need to include dupe sheets. For ALL award submissions, Include your call sign, name and address, FISTS membership number, and the name of the award you are

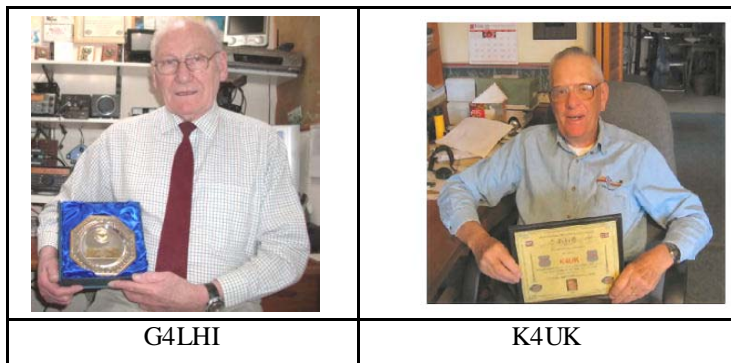
applying for. DO NOT send logs that are scanned images of your log pasted into Excel and Word documents. Scanned images of log pages will not be accepted. This award is available to FISTS and non-FISTS members. It is free of charge to members in good standing. Those with lapsed subs and non-FISTS please include \$3 to help defray the cost of making and mailing the certificate and/or endorsement stickers. Please answer someone's CQ at the speed they are sending and USE SPACES between your letters and words. The most common, yet most easily remedied, problem is SPACING. You can be sending perfectly formed code, but if it's all run together, it still sounds like gibberish and gives you a bad fist.

\*\*\*\*\*

If anyone does not have a copy of the winter 2007 Keynote. Let me know and either myself or Paul will be able to supply you with one, either electronically or a hard copy.

\*\*\*\*\*

I've received images from some of the award winners of 2007, always a pleasure to see and hear from members. Keep them coming.



G4LHI pictured with his 2007 G3ZQS award, and K4UK pictured with his QRP Award for the WARC 2007 Activity.



Some information and images received are from FISTS Member Erkki, OH7QR, #8318. Who sends an insight to his other hobbies outside of amateur radio; I found the story and images very enlightening and am pleased to publish them here.

Hello Robert, at first many thanks for our QSO on 12th February on 20M. I was very pleased to meet you on band. I am planning to take a round trip via locator squares KP32, KP33 and KP43. I'm not sure if I'll make the trip on this month or in April. We have now got a real winter. The snow covering is about 50 cm thick and the temp is now minus 8 degrees. Some minus degrees are better than plus in winter. It is nice to go out skiing when the snow is not wet and when the temp is not too cold. I have been skiing already many times and have made my own ski track (I have broad ski's and can easily ski on unbeaten snow) Today it was a nice sunny day and I took a 1:5 hours skiing trip.

My ski track is only 5.5 km long. It is many times covered with new snow after nightly snowfalls and I have to make it again and again. But it is good exercise. Today it is sunny day and it seems that my track is still left in the same state as it was yesterday. In the bag I have a thermos flask with hot tea and honey.



Also, I send here an image of myself with the pike which I captured with a lure on Saturday; 8-9-07 the weight is 3.2 kilos and length 70 centimetres.

On Monday I tested my mobile antenna. It worked OK. In winter when the lakes are frozen over we have here a so-called "ice-road" over the Kallavesi-lake (big lake around Kuopio). It shortens our distance to Kuopio by 9 kilometres so that we have only 39 km to drive instead of 48. I parked my car by the side of the "ice-road" and had 4 QSOs on 20. The rig was FT-817 (QRP) with only 5 W output and the antenna my new C-Whip Mono (separate elements for each band). I had four QSOs on 14058: two to Italy, one to HA and one FISTS (G4OEC). On 30 and 17 metres I had no success. The weather was quite dull and it was snowing, so I didn't take any images. Next time I'll wait for better WX and will also have my FT-897 with me and with 100W the success will sure be better.

\*\*\*\*\*

Erkki gives us an insight to his country and other interests outside of Radio. I'll be pleased to hear from you with you if you'd like to share with us other hobbies/interests, as long or as short as you like, with images if possible.

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That's all from me for this edition, Hope to meet up with you on air sometime during 2008. Till then, keep well. Keep bashing the brass!  
73. MØBPT

73. MØBPT

## From The Membership Sec'

Hello All, The Spring is Sprung it's nearly summer, the birds are singing, so where are the sunspots?! It seems a lot of members forgot the new renewal date of the 1<sup>st</sup> April each year, If you received a reminder with your copy, this could be your last Keynote, Please renew, Moving on, the new members list continues to grow:-

13264 G4GCL John	13265 M1BYH Andy
13266 G3RXO Rog/Roxo	13267 G4HOF Patrick
13268 G6OTP Mike	13269 G4IUP Roger
13270 G0ABY Phil	13271 M0BIN Chas
13272 GM0ELP Doug	13273 G3IUY John
13274 G0APQ Keith	13275 DK5OE Nick
13276 G4XFC John	13277 MW0TTU Mo*
13278 G8DNH Barry	13279 SM7CFF Ben
13280 IZ0ETE Emanuele	13281 M0NRH Nic
13282 M3ZDI Roger	13283 G4EGJ Paul
13284 G4KFK Mike	13285 SA0AAZ Jonas
13286 G4WBH Paul	13287 G3TNE Colin
13288 GW4WMK Dave	13289 G0YAP Ian
13290 DL1HID Wolf	13291 G0IWB Joe
13292 G0TZZ Chris	13293 G3XZX Alan
13294 G3XXR Roger	13295 G3XHR Herbert
13296 M0ZOL Zoli	13297 G3TVV Allen
13298 G4GBP Colin	13299 G4FUY Pete
14000 G4LMW Rob	14001 OE3SGU Hannes
14002 G0HDJ Craig	14003 M3UYE Martin
14004 EA1DR Oscar	

\*MW0TTU Mo is Xyl of MW0CVT Robert, Memb' No 7196

So the membership is growing nicely, it would certainly be an eye-opener if all the membership became active when the ssb boys creep in to the CW sections during contests! Now on to the Silent Key List, I regret to inform you of the passing of: -

G4RWP	Edi Memb' nr	286
2E0RNK	Alan	12594
G3EFY	Tom	6034
G0JZY	Ralph	546
G5BM	Frank	2874
G5OW	Bill	12552
G0WXC	Roy	3760

Allan MOEOS informs me that he has resigned due to an ongoing health problem, I along with the rest of the member's wish you well Allen, good luck mate, Paul and Myself had a very enjoyable day at the Yeovil Club rally, We were made very welcome by the club members, we even had a few join us in Fists, I must mention Molly and her friend, Molly is 6 or 7 and had great fun with the Test your Morse game, She can send a mean CQ! She is the daughter of Garry 2E0BFJ, I think there'll be a little completion for the key in the near future, Her friend was fascinated with the RTTY noise coming from Paul's K3 she said it was an alien trying to contact Mars! Out of the mouths of babes! Fred G3VVP was using the club call GX0IPX during April and a few days in May, I hope you managed to bump into him on the bands, Judging by the log he enjoyed himself, Thanks Fred. Well that's about it from me! See you at the rallies, vy 73 fer NW John M0CDL.

P.S. Don't forget if you don't renew this will be your last copy of Key-note,

### **The last Word**

Well that's it for this edition Please send any article to MOBMN's address for the next edition please. Have a good summer and hope to work a few of you on the bands.

Paul MOBMN

# Club Sales Page

Welcome to the club sales page.

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