



International Morse Preservation Society



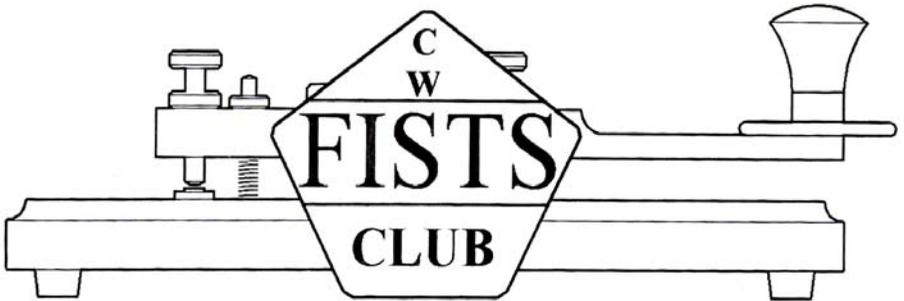
KEY NOTE



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

WINTER EDITION 2007



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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“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.

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Wolverhampton WV4 5RF
Tel : 01902 338973

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 M0BLT
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 background to keep fists alive and well.

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

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

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

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

M0's, M5's, M3's 2E0's etc
Mr Glenn Waring - M0AY1
7 Tynedale Terrace.
Annfield Plain
Stanley
Durham
DH9 7TZ

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 , M0CDL (address on previous page)

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

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

Welcome....

Greens are turning brown and the summer sun is hiding behind winter skies again, Christmas is just around the corner and its time for the last Keynote of the year.

It's been a busy few months for me, I must say I never seem to have the free time I plan to have. I decided to enrol on a couple of courses at the local college , maths and English! It was many years ago when I did these and so decided that it was time to do a refresher. So that's two nights a week taken up till May.

Looking back over this year we have attended a number of rallies and had chance to talk to many members. One thing that we have heard time and time again is that many members will not go on air as they fear that their CW is not good enough to use on air, many are capable of 5-10wpm but still say that they cannot find anyone to chat with at that speed and others will not slow down to match their speed. Every rally we attended people told us the same story many times. So come on everyone, if you hear anyone around our frequencies operating slow CW please reply at the same speed that they are calling. If we could get these members on air we would really be achieving something I feel.

In order to help these slower operators I recently spoke to Ofcom about obtaining a new club call sign that we could use as a slow CW station. The official at Ofcom was very helpful, and in fact gave me a special call sign since it was for such a good cause. He gave me GB2SCW (Slow CW). This call sign will be on air from about the time that you get this edition. The SCW station will only operate QRS CW, it can only operate from my QTH I'm sorry to say and having had a play on the ladder its clear than on 80m I am struggling to put out a decent signal, and maybe a contest is not the best place for such a station. I intend to use this call on 30m only, on 30m I can put out a very nice signal. 30m is a quieter band than 40m and so I hope that anyone that wants to work the slow station will be able to without fighting for band space.

Another issue that a number of people have emailed me and other FISTS helpers about is bad English. I accept that I am not the best when it comes to English grammar. From the next edition I have a new proof reader on board. I've never claimed to be anything more than what I am, I'm an engineer not a writer. I have given serious consideration to resigning from the post of editor and letting someone else take over. But for now I intend to carry on. I hope that with the help of the new proof reader Keynote will have less mistakes ! Hi

Now more pleasant things..

We would be very interested in hearing from members to which rallies in 2008 they would like us to attend. We will attend Elevaston Castle, Donnington, and the QRP Club Meeting, that means we could attend another 1 or 2 if members want it, let me know!

I have now only have a few articles for the newsletter so if you have been sitting on something, now is the time to send it in to me. I have a few articles on antenna topics and I was hoping to include them in this edition but with the 2008 contest rules I am very low on space.

We now have a special callsign given us by the very nice people at Ofcom GB2SCW, to help with our drive to get more people on air. The station will only run QRS and even if you are happy to work faster CW please keep it below 12 wpm if you work the station , we have many members who just listen and try to decode the Morse they hear and this station should help them learn and get on air themselves.

A little note from Anne (the XYL and Club Sales)

Can you make sure you put a note in with your cheques telling her what you want to order, she has had a few cheques with an address and that's all so please make sure you let her know what you are ordering.

By the way we are nearly out of QSL cards and so there may be a delay in supplying these while we get new ones made. Ring if you want to check before ordering, (01902 338973)

We now can offer a FREE CW learning course on CD, its in mp3 format due to being around 20 hrs long on one disk. The CD is free, just send a stamped addressed Envelope with postage to cover the return (A5 Size please for the CD) or send £1 to cover costs via post (or paypal to sales@fists.co.uk) together with your address and Anne will send you a disk. If you really want we would be happy to receive any donations to help with the production cost of the disks but that's up to you. We are happy to send the disk to none members too.

Anyway that's about it from me, all that is left is to wish you all the best for Christmas and hope that you have a peaceful new year.

MEMBERS MUSINGS

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION FROM THE FISTS REFLECTOR

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fistscw>

Well, here we are once again folks, who would believe that 2007 is nearly through!! I was only saying in the last edition of Keynote that we'd all soon be caught up in the mad rush for Christmas! I'm sure that you're already growing weary of all the TV adverts and shops "stuffing it down your throat!" Still I hope that Santa delivers you some nice piece of radio kit for being good!!

Ok first off, and apologies if this has already been mentioned elsewhere in Keynote, the FISTS website has been revamped by Paul and certain areas are password protected for members only. If you would like to gain access then drop Paul a line at paul@fists.co.uk who will be happy to help out. There have been quite a few members asking via the list but you need to contact Paul direct. Thanks.

ABSORPTION WAVE METER

Hi all

I am at present studying for my full licence and on Friday we did wavemeters. I was wondering does anybody have any plans (3.5 – 30 MHz) or know where I can get some to homebrew a wavemeter, an easy one as I am not brilliant with a soldering iron hi hi.

Many thanks again before hand

Dave 2E0NCB 12510

Dave's an active member of the reflector and I'm sure would appreciate any assistance with the above request. Nice to see him working towards the "Full" licence and in particular taking an interest in "Homebrew

HELP WITH INCREASING SPEED AND PADDLE - ADVICE

I wonder if any of the faster ops here could give me some help or hints.

I'm very keen to improve my CW speed. Just now I'm reasonably comfortable at copying near 100% at 15 wpm but I still have to concentrate. I can copy a lot of 18 wpm but with odd gaps.

I'm still using a straight key and can do about 13 - 14 wpm. I think the sending is probably ok because the CW decoder on the PC can read my sending. I really seem to struggle with the paddle, even with the keyer set at 13 wpm. I make a lot of mistakes (Usually extra dits). Despite practice, the paddle key errors kept coming. So I went back to the straight key.

Problem is I seem to have reached a plateau in both straight key sending speed and copying speed - I doubt either has improved much in 6 months. I use the Koch trainer by G4FON as well as RufzXP.

So: how can I copy faster? And should I quit with the straight key or not? I don't want to be a speed demon but would like to get up to 25wpm if I can. Tnx es 73

Pete GM0WEZ

Only one way to achieve this----Practice Practice Practice--Listen Listen Listen preferably at a much greater speed than you can comfortably copy--stretch yourself.

Chris G0HFX #0236

I'm no speed demon either and maybe not qualified to say, But, Practice practice practice. You want to listen to good code like W1AW or tape keep varying the speed. I'm told it's the best way to learn code without writing it down. I could never do that myself. Too many dead brain cells maybe.

As far as the paddle is concerned, beside practice I'm told sending names and numbers from a telephone book works. Make sure the errors are caused by you and not RF on the keyer leads. Most of all HAVE FUN!!!!

Good luck

Mike

WB2KKI

I like the Farnsworth style of G4FON trainer and Nu-Morse.

Always set the character-speed (code-speed) faster than the effective-speed or word-speed.

So if you want to build up to 25 wpm, set the character-speed to 25 wpm, and learn to copy that even if you have to space it out to 9wpm to start.

Then, keeping the same 25wpm character-speed, increase the effective (Or word) speed from 9 to 12 to 15 to 18 to 21 to 25.

As you increase the character-speed on G4FON trainer, the effective-speed choices change and use smaller steps between levels.

I think that is what Farnsworth style is all about. Start the character-speed at your high goal then you just shorten the spacing between characters.

KC9BRZ

These were just a few of the suggestions that came forward on the reflector. Do you have any further ideas? If so, then why not join up and offer them? Better still consider an article for publication in Keynote...just a page of ideas will suffice....

For my few pence worth and I'm sure most will agree, the important thing is to keep plugging away and get plenty of practice in!!!

Never forget the FISTS motto though –
“Accuracy transcends Speed”

Better to send good quality slow Morse than poor fast gibberish!!

POLLS

Question

When the bands are performing well and are open, which band is favourite for you to use?

Responses

Choices	Votes	%
80 M	4	8
40 M	6	13
30 M	10	22
20 M	9	20
17 M	5	11
15 M	7	15
12 M	0	0
160 M	1	2
10 M	3	6
6 M	0	0
VHF upwards	0	0

Well, we certainly love 30 M that's for sure! It seems poor old 12 M leaves a lot

Question

What are your feelings on contests?

Responses

Choices	Votes	%
I love contesting and take part in as many as I can!	2	3
There are too many now and are nuisances!	13	25
They are bearable IF band plans are adhered to.	17	33
They don't really bother or interest me.	4	7
I enjoy taking part in some contests.	15	29

Interesting and informative results above. Still seems that operators have mixed feelings on contests! If only band plans were adhered to, then most would be happier!

Ok...time to leave you all in peace! I hope you all have a great Christmas and a very peaceful 2008. Take it easy and see you in the New Year

Cheers for now,

73, Mark - BLT

From The Membership Sec'

Hi, welcome to my ramblings! Well its almost Christmas, where did the year go? It really doesn't seem that long since Paul and myself were at the Elvaston rally! Then there was the Flooding at the end of July, I hope the members that were caught in the floods are at last drying out and the insurance companies have paid for your new radio gear! We met a lot of members at the Donnington rally and also had quite a few new members join us. I hope the organisers took notice of the emails and comments in the amateur radio magazines about holding one of the biggest Amateur Radio Rallies in the U.K on the same weekend as a race day! The noise in the hall was deafening, some folks had to queue for nearly FOUR Hours to get in on Saturday, Well done to those who did. We also went along to the QRP Convention in Rochdale in October, it's the last time that the rally will be held at St Aidens church hall, as the Rev George Dobbs, G3RJV retires this year, Quite a few of our members are also members of the Gqrp club, and came up on to the stage to where the Fists Stand was and said hello, We also had a few new members join, and with that, The new members list:-

13219 MM0MRM Moe	13220 G7UWP Phil
13221 DL3RL Tom	13222 G4DGB Terry
13223 M1AGY Jules	13224 G8JNF Duncan
13225 G4BXT Paul	13226 G0KOK Peter
13227 M3ZVI Frank	13228 G3NCN John
13229 G6FDI Ray	13230 GB2SCW Club*
13231 M3WCK Colin	13232 G3VUS David
13233 G0FXL Dan	13234 G14FUE Charlie
13235 G4PJG Allan	13236 G4JZV Bob
13237 G4GIM Brian	13238 G4CCB Tony
13239 G4CVC John	13240 G4DMP David
13241 G4VXV Roy	13242 M0MJH Mark
13243 M0JCD John	13244 M0VBD Bob
13245 G7VJQ Chris	13246 ON4WIX Glenn
13247 M0GHQ Max	13248 G4MSN Ray

13249 LA1ENA Aage	13250 G0FOI Russell
13251 GI3ZMX Frank	13252 G0TAK Roy
13253 2E0JCY John	13254 2E0RIO Sarah**
13255 DF8XZ Pit	13256 G0KDJ Jim
13257 2E0LMA Lee	13258 G8HI Ken
13259 M???? David***	13260 GM4TOE Barry
13261 G4CGG Richard	13262 G0BAK Bill
13263 ON4AUB Francois	

*GB2SCW is a club call for FISTS; we intend to (Hopefully) use it around once a week for slow CW, we were quite surprised to find, after talking to some members that they are shy to get on the key, we hope to try and encourage them on and send using this club call sign, if you feel you would like to have a go on the key, but you think the other operator will not slow down enough for you, listen out for the call sign and give it a go.

** 2E0RIO Sarah is the Grand Daughter of the late G3BOK Bill Rennington, she has passed her intermediate exam, and is now studying hard on the full licence exam, when she passes she is going to apply for her Grandfathers call sign, I hope you join with me in wishing her all the luck in the world.

*** David has joined us, even though he is still studying his Foundation licence and hasn't got a call sign yet! Again hope you have every success David, I look forward to updating you all very soon on the progress of Sarah and David.

Now on to the sad news received regarding the passing of society members.

I've received news from Ray G0UKX informing of the passing of David **G3VNG 1097**. Dave was living in Spain.

I've also been informed of the passing of Stan **G3RNB 3731**.

Also Buck **G0OYH 1078**. Buck was quite active on the fists reflector.

Mick G3LIK reported the passing of Chris **G0WKJ 2239**.

I had a letter from Mr G. Godfrey, the son of **Eric G3GC**; informing me of his Fathers passing, Gordon goes on to say "My father was always a keen CW man who promoted its use by providing slow Morse classes over the air for many years, I hope the skill may long remain, because proficiency is gained over many hours practising and

is not something that can be purchased” **Eric G3GC was No 68**. Thanks Gordon, our thoughts are with you.

Another letter from G8GWB informing us of the passing of **Geoff, G8MYI 2274** in October.

Finally, from Mrs A. King informing of the passing of her husband **Don G0IJE**. Audrey goes on to say he had a long illness and passed away in January, just before her 79th birthday, he would have been 80 in November, Audrey is licensed and holds the call G0IRL; she says that she doesn’t send too good these days and how they both used to help others learn the code and go on to pass the Morse Test, I’m sure you will join with me offering our thoughts and prayers to Audrey and the families and friends of our former members,

Thank you,
John M0CDL, Membership Sectary

The Perseus key by GØPEH.

First, why did I call it the Perseus key, well a lot of the material I used for its construction was 6mm Perspex sheet, hence the name I adopted?

Whilst this is not a ‘how to make one yourself’ instruction sheet I just give you some idea of how I made it.

First I should say that after using a Vibroflex key belonging to my pal Mike G4VEC I liked its action using magnets to control the spring tension of the paddles.

With that in mind and when replacing a small armature in our pond pump found that the one I removed was very magnetic. This started me thinking of how I could use this in a homebrew key.

If you now look at the top view in the photo you will see that the tubular magnet is mounted centrally and horizontal at the centre. Each paddle is made of Perspex and has a large headed 4mm screw adjacent the magnet. This is attracted by said magnet to keep paddles in the rest position.

Each paddle has a finger rescued from a large GPO type relay along the side with its contact at the business end. The contact on this line’s up with a second contact soldered to the end of a 4mm screw to adjust the working gap held in those black pieces.

To carry the connection from paddle finger to the fulcrum pin of each paddle I used the very small copper braid. (In fact this braid is solder wick which is ideal.) This pin gives the cable connection beneath the top Perspex layer.

For the base I used 2 squares of Perspex, top one carries the workings. The second one below this has its centre part removed to accommodate the connections for the wiring.



To complete the base and to make it heavy and to give good stability I used 3rd and 4th layers of sheet lead and final layer is sheet aluminium for strength. Sprayed black and with rubber feet it seems to work very well.

On test the first time using my favourite qrp rig I worked a DL9, a F1st member followed

by a qso with an F5 who was a GQRP member so well pleased with that as you can imagine.

GD all,

I've just been reading Morseman's column in the July/August issue of NZART's Break-In magazine. He includes a link to a website that may be of interest.

<http://mikea.ath.cx/www.n1ea.coastalradio.org.uk/index.html>

It includes some "final night" recordings made by various coastal stations when they signed off their 500 kHz maritime transmissions for the last time.

73 de Andrew
FISTS 9801
GSQL 5

Handed on a Plate

Working as a Telegrapher within the busy offices during the early 1900's would have been very much a great strain.

A strain not only on the telegrapher and his family, but also on his mind and body.

Telegraphers often had to send and receive as much as 25,000 words in a single shift, this brought about the daily strain not only on the mind, but a great strain on their arm, as using the key repeatedly day after day produced for many, excruciating pain.

This today would be referred to as repetitive strain injury, back in these days it was called telegraphers paralysis or glass arm, yes and would you believe it they even sold a liniment for the treatment of this condition, but I doubt that it did any good, as this medical condition known as Carpel tunnel syndrome is most often rectified by surgery.

Horace G Martin this very well known Vibroplex inventor, was considered to be one of the very best telegraphers within the USA of that period, and that is why I very much suspect that one of the main reasons for the invention of his Martin Auto-plex, and then a little later the very well known Vibroplex Original. I believe this was very much due to the fact that Martin was himself, suffering from this dreaded condition of Telegrapher paralysis/ Glass arm.

1904 saw the introduction of Martins semi-automatic original, which later, people were to call a bug!

The semi-Automatic not only improved speed, but it also helped alleviate the strain imposed on the sender over a prolong period, Once the Major Telegraph companies, like the western union etc. had come to accept change, and to allow their operators to use this new found technology, in the form of the Vibroplex Original.

Other companies then jumped on the bandwagon and rushed in with their own products.

These non Vibroplex Keys were merely copies of the Vibroplex original and Martin as you can imagine was not very happy, as they were to infringe on his Patent Nr 842,154 that was filed on April 16th 1906 .

James Eugene Albright a typewriter and Telegraph instrument shop owner who had the sole selling agent rights of Martins Vibroplex Bugs. He threatened to prosecute the Manufacturers of these illegal copy bugs. Albright even considered bringing prosecution suits against the individual users of these bugs. Frustrated and very much annoyed, Albright was to come up with the idea of allowing the operator to use their bugs, providing they pay a two Dollar licence fee.

After payment was complete, a plate was affixed to the key in question allowing continual use of the instrument.

These B*****d bugs as their operators often called them, proved to be very well made by some of the companies or small shops that were to produce them, But the makers name and the company of these bugs are very difficult to identify to the modern day key collector. This was due to the fact that the original plate would have been removed when Albrights licence plate was affixed, But the maker of an illegal bug to a Vibroplex collector is unimportant the Albright Plate makes an historical addition to their collection of Vibroplex Keys

These bugs that had the licence plate affixed were commonly called **Albright Bugs** but Albright did not in fact make them,
The plate actually states this, it makes reference as;

**This machine is licensed,
But NOT Guaranteed NOR Manufactured by
J.E.ALBRIGHT
253 BROADWAY, NEW YORK**

Albright was a very sharp businessman, and knowing about Martins patents had control of the market, he had the **only legal keys** that were used by the Western Union and the Postal Telegraph,
Eventually Albright was to acquire the patent rights of Martins Keys and in 1915 he was to acquire ownership of the Vibroplex company, this was run until 1978 by Albrights family,

Two styles of license Plates can be found, at first glance they do appear to be the same but they have the wording reversed

**This Machine is NOT guaranteed NOR Made
But only licensed by
J.E.ALBRIGHT
253 Broadway, New York**

So in the history of the Vibroplex J.E Albright plays a very important part in the running of the company, as he and his family run the company for over 63yrs in relation to the short period of Horace G martin

Ray Bullock GOEML Fists 3774

--- SOS ---

The North Sea in a winter storm can be one of the most dangerous places on earth. I have sailed through the Bay of Biscay, the Great Australian Bight, the Southern Ocean and across the Pacific, but believe me, the combination of the shallow North Sea and a northerly gale can leave you with experience to remember for the rest of your life.

It was such a foul night in December 1954 when the 12000 ton tanker “British Birch” sailed from the UK. It was my first trip in charge as an 18 year old Radio Officer, and the sequence of events are as clear today as they were more than 50 years ago.



"A fully laden tanker has very little freeboard and waves wash straight across the deck"

In those days oil tankers had two basic trade routes. The first route was loading crude oil from the Persian Gulf or Venezuela for transporting back to the huge refineries in the UK and the second route was transporting refined oil to the storage and distribution points throughout the UK and Europe. Both cargos are dangerous and strict safety rules apply on all tankers; no naked flames, no metal tipped shoes, no metal tools (only soft brass) no lighters, only special gas proof torches etc. Fumes from the cargo (kept heated for easy distribution) have a pungent aroma. One dropped tool, one spark from a shoe and 10,000 tons of petrol can turn the ship into a fireball.

Of the two cargos, crude oil is similar to black treacle and more difficult to ignite, whereas refined products such as Petroleum spirit, Aviation fuel, Paraffin, and Turpentine are highly volatile.

Fully loaded with refined products, we sailed from the Isle of Grain refinery in the Thames estuary. Our destination was Denmark and Sweden where we were scheduled to discharge our cargo into various oil storage depots in the Baltic.

However fate had another schedule planned for us, when around midnight the ships engines stopped and we were rendered helpless in a force nine gale. Under normal circumstances the breakdown of a ships engines is a fairly routine affair, this happens often with cargo ships and merely results in hoisting two black balls to indicate to passing ships that you are not under command, whilst the ships engineers repair the problem. To the crews of some “budget” shipping lines of those days these balls were sarcastically known as the company’s “House Flag”.

Unfortunately for us the situation was far from routine. Our QTH was 10 miles North-east of Skagen – the northerly tip of Denmark - and this was not a temporary breakdown. A major fault had occurred in the main engine lubrication system, with the result that the bearings had overheated and melted. We were not going to re-start the engines.

Under normal circumstances we would have notified company headquarters in Finsbury Circus and drifted around until towed to port by another company ship or a tug hired for the purpose. However the year was 1954 – less than 10 years after the end of World War II,

when the Germans laid thousands of mines around the coast of Denmark. Apart from approaches to ports, most of these had not yet been cleared and were marked in red on the Admiralty chart labelled "Danger - keep clear - Mined area". With a force nine Northerly gale we were being blow straight into the largest of these areas. This was not the best place to be for a ship laden with 12,000 tons of highly flammable petroleum products. Even if we missed the mines the rocky coast of Denmark would be our next destination.

In those days Morse code was the only method of shipboard communication and it was with shaking fingers that I adjusted the blue MF knobs on the Marconi "Oceanspan" transmitter, tuned the copper slug to the international distress frequency of 500 Kc/s, switched the Marconi 365 Morse key to the main transmitter and sent "SOS de GCBZ BRITISH BIRCH 57.49 NORTH 10.01 EAST = ENGINES FAILED DRIFTING ONTO THE COAST OF DENMARK IN STORM FORCE WINDS = IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE REQUIRED"

All hell broke loose.

I received immediate acknowledgements from Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, German, Belgian, Dutch, French and UK coast stations, plus a couple of ships in the area. I was also deluged with messages from Headquarters, Lloyds of London, and salvage companies. Fortunately, another British tanker was just a few hours steaming away and reached us at daybreak. We now had two fully laden oil tankers in a mined area.

It took a nerve racking four hours in a force nine gale, with the coastline creeping ever closer, before a towing line could be attached to our anchor chain. First the rescue ship steamed around us firing her rocket lines, but with both vessels fully laden and us rolling and pitching uncontrollably they could not risk a collision by coming too close. A fully laden tanker has very little freeboard and high waves wash straight across the deck, so all rockets either missed their target or caught in the rigging and broke before they could be retrieved. A similar scenario ensued with our rocket lines when the rescue ships' rockets were exhausted. All communications with the rescue ship were conducted by CW on 500 Kc/s, with every other coast station and ship in the north sea remaining silent. This was before the days of VHF.

Finally, in desperation, the rescue ship threw a lifebelt over the side with a line attached and by careful manoeuvring up-wind managed to steer the line to drift within our reach, which was quickly hauled aboard, attached to a winch and a thick manila towing line hauled on board. Only then was I able to advise Danish control coast station OXZ that the distress traffic was over and communications returned to normal.

We were then towed back to Smith's yard on the Tyne where we all enjoyed a couple of weeks extra leave. It was to be another eight years before I was called upon to send SOS once more...

Roy Clayton

G4SSH *Thanks Roy, sorry for the delay in printing this .Paul MOBMM*

Below are articles taken from FISTS Down under Newsletter .reproduced with kind permission from our FISTS Down under Chapter.

FISTS DOWN UNDER Newsletter – October 2007

HELP PLEASE?

Jack-VK2CJC/MM0AXL #9666 is looking for information on the key pictured below.



It's a standard WT 8amp military service key, this one made by LMK & Co in 1940. I'm sure you have seen a hundred of them.

Jack's question is. Why does is the knob extended up like that? I have spoken to several people very knowledgeable and experienced in key collecting, and nobody has been able to tell me. In fact this key always invites offers of cash, as key collectors want it for their display

next to their other 20 WT 8 amps, because this one is different!

What I know about it is - My father, whose hobby is collecting and restoring WW2 trucks, bought it for me for 2 pounds from a military surplus supplier at a military vehicle show in Durham UK, in 1983. He bought it because he knew I would find it interesting and as a joke. He says "I've got you something for your radio station". I had a HF receiver and an FM only CB radio at the time! However I surprised him by using it to have CW contacts 10 years later.

SHOPPING IN THAILAND

Barry Kirkwood, ZL1DD # 9029

No, this is not about silks or gemstones, but about radio and electronics shopping in Thailand. Firstly, forget about bargain ham gear. Ham transceivers in Thailand are subject to heavy import duty, must belong to a list of approved types, and there is no market for ham equipment as such. Also computers, cameras etc., from recognised manufacturers cost much the same as back in ZL and are likely to speak Thai. So what is the good news?

All the accessories, headsets, webcams etc are very cheap up here. Legally questionable DVDs, CDs, Software available everywhere at low prices. Best bought from stalls inside major malls, quality control of stuff from street stalls questionable. Convenience stores sell also sell bargain CDs and DVDs, low prices, good quality, might even be legal. The Mecca for electronic parts and related gear are the sois Ban Mor and Klong Thom in Chinatown, Bangkok. It's a Fun place to browse around while the family cruise the amazing BKK shopping malls. You can get speakers re-coned on the side of the road there, while you wait!

Most sellers know enough English to quote prices. Learn to bargain. 60% of asking price is a good place to start for a beginner. There are proper component shops, do not know the ones in BKK, know a good one in Chiang Mai. Small component packs very cheap and you can buy bargain kit-sets for electronic gadgets of all descriptions.

All major Thai cities have big malls specialising in computers and related products, often include general electronic stuff. Thai sound equipment generally of very good quality and bargain price. Many big name brands of home entertainment equipment are manufactured in Thailand. If you are into building sound equipment, components like speakers, crossovers, amp boards etc very good and very cheap. A good place to check out home entertainment gear is at the major department stores like Robinsons. Fixed price, but they will often throw in accessories with the deal, sometimes without being asked. Also these stores can arrange refund of G.S.T. (7%). You take the goods and receive a refund at the airport when you leave.

Georg Goerge, VK2DLF # 9052

(News about Georg from Chris Thompson, VK2CTN)

Hi Chris, hope all is fine with you. here well there is some bad news and a lot of good news. Let's start with the bad news. I haven't done CW for 2 years, because I have been working a lot in that time and my health hasn't been that good and you know I am suffering from CFS. But now for the good news - My health is getting better and my Morse key business is so good, I never would have thought it possible. I had a lot of work to do, making drawings and plans for all the products I have now. All the measurements have to be absolutely correct. Only that way can one work efficiently. Now I have a good program on keys, bugs and even a paddle, which is very important to me. I don't know if you have had a look at my website lately, but there are a few things available now. In June the American Radio Magazine CQ had an article about my keys and the response was unbelievable. Having done all the work, now my live is going back to normal, that means that I have time again for the hobby's like CW and a view other things. In November, I will buy myself an Elecraft K1 in kit form, as you know that is a CW only rig. Once I get that rig working, there will be a K2 on the shopping list. Again in kit form and a CW only version, which I will again build!

If you and Ralph thought I might have fallen to sleep, your worries were unfounded. It's the other way around. I haven't been awake yet. Hi Hi! Sorry for being late with my renewal. On another note, I have said for many years, that when CW is abolished from the exams, it will suddenly come alive and will be really popular. Well that is exactly what is happening. I have so many enquiries about my products and often just an email from people who have made there licence only so they can do

Morse Code!

By the way there is a review about my Bug at Eham.net.

<http://www.eham.net/reviews/review/56945>

FISTS Downunder Newsletter – November 2007

VK2CTN-Chris #9057 our man in Australia left on 22 October for a long visit to Britain. He returns in mid-December. We wish him well. He goes clutching a list of UK FISTS members and it is hoped he will manage a few eyeball QSOs there. We are promised a report on his return. **VK4TJ-John #9080** has undertaken the postal distribution of newsletters to Australian members while Chris is on holiday. – Thanks John. At the time of writing there are not many QSL cards on hand for VK Members so I (Nigel, ZL2TX) will hold them until Chris returns.

ONE MAN'S BID TO SAVE MORSE CODE

Michael M. Phillips in the Wall Street Journal of 8 October 2007.

Chuck Adams taps out a message. - At the age of 15 -- inspired by his father, a ham-radio operator -- he taught himself Morse code from a book. At the time, ham operators had to transcribe Morse code at a rate of five words per minute in order to earn the most basic federal license. Soon young Mr. Adams was spending every night sending coded messages to anyone who could hear them, and eavesdropping on UPI news dispatches broadcast to ships. Many other radio amateurs use voice transmissions, but Mr. Adams preferred code, because of the challenge -- and because he thinks his voice is too high and his West Texas accent too twangy.

Mr. Adams completed a PhD, won tenure at the University of North Texas, worked high-powered jobs in the defence and computer industries, and dabbled in the professional poker circuit. But he never lost his love for Morse code. The code is the creation of a painter, Samuel F.B. Morse, who needed a way to transmit messages over the telegraph that he and Alfred Vail had invented. In 1844, the men famously sent a transmission from Washington to Baltimore that read, "What hath God wrought?" The telegraph soon replaced the pony express. As late as World War II, ham operators found themselves using their Morse skills as radiomen in the military. During the Vietnam War, POW Jeremiah Denton, later a U.S. senator from Alabama blinked "T-O-R-T-U-R-E" in Morse code when his captors put him on television. But over time, the telephone and satellites have rendered Morse code almost obsolete. "If the satellites go out and power goes out, Morse code can still get through," says Nancy Kott, president of a code club called FISTS -- someone who sends good code has "a good fist." "All we need is a battery and two wires to tap together, and we can communicate."

In February, the Federal Communications Commission eliminated the Morse requirements for ham-radio licenses. Mr. Adams resigned from a ham-operators organization because of what he saw as its flaccid defence of Morse code. "It is a sad state of affairs when the U.S. doesn't even attempt to keep the language alive or give an incentive to work on it," says Mr. Adams. Chuck Adams is tied for 8th fastest Morse code communicator in the world. WSJ's Michael Phillips meets him at his home in the Arizona desert to find out how and why he keeps up the code culture. Many of those who still know Morse code test their skills with a German computer game called RUFZ, the standard for determining world transcription-speed rankings.

Players listen to coded, five-character call signs, combinations of letters, symbols and numbers that identify individual license holders. The faster and more correctly they type them, the more points they score. (Transcribing in handwriting is much slower.)

Last month in Belgrade, Goran Hajosevic broke 200 words per minute -- an extraordinary pace. Mr. Adams is tied for eighth in the world, at more than 140 words per minute.

Scanning the list recently of the 60 fastest Morse coders under the age of 20, Mr. Adams spotted just two with American issued call signs. "What this shows me is in the United States, we have no one who's interested in learning Morse code anymore," he lamented.

Mr. Adams and other Morse aficionados don't speak of dots and dashes; that imagery is too visual, and Morse is an aural language. So they prefer to describe the language in dits and dahs, the sounds of the short and long tones. A, for instance, is dit dah. B is dah dit dit dit, or simply dah dididit. Between two letters, the sender allows a three-dit silence. Between words it grows to seven dits.

Like all Morse experts, Mr. Adams rarely breaks signals down into letters, instead hearing complete words much as readers recognize words on a page. When he transcribes a message at high speeds, his fingers are five or 10 words behind his ears. When he is "in the zone" he isn't even conscious of what he is transcribing, he says. He has to read it

later to understand the message. When he listens to one of his books, the code is like a voice speaking to him. "It's like you don't count the i's when someone says Mississippi," he explains. He produces his audio books to play at different speeds, depending on the expertise of the buyer. Ken Moorman's bedtime listening is Mr. Adams's 25-word-per-minute version of "The War of the Worlds," which he purchased for \$10.50.

"It's so much easier to pick up a microphone and yell," says Mr. Moorman, a 65-year-old retired electrical engineer in Williamsburg, Va., and a coder since 1957. "The people who do [Morse code] today do it because it's a lost art."

Earlier this year, Mr. Adams sent Barry Kutner, a 50-year-old ophthalmologist from Newtown, Pa., and another world class coder, obtained a 100-words-per-minute version of the book. To Mr. Adams's chagrin, Mr. Kutner wrote an email back pointing out that the gap between words was eight dits long, instead of the prescribed seven. At that pace, a dit

lasts 1.2 one-thousandths of a second. Much as he did growing up in Texas, Mr. Adams enjoys sitting in front of a gray radio, not much bigger than a hardcover book, and sending code with a \$500, Italian, stainless-steel, paddle-style key that he operates with a pinching motion.

With the slightest touch of his right thumb on one paddle, the key sends an audible dit. A touch of his right pointer finger on the other paddle sends a dah. His wife, Phyllis, 62, doesn't begrudge him his long hours in front of the radio. "I'm just glad he has something to keep him busy," she says. "All my friends with retired husbands complain they follow them around the house all day."

One recent Sunday morning, Mr. Adams's radio came alive with Morse tones. It was a guy named Gary McClain in Pryor, Okla. The transmissions were pretty slow, just 22 words per minute. McClain, a 65-year-old retired mill worker, learned Morse code in the Boy Scouts half a century ago. He had nothing urgent in mind; he just wanted to make contact with someone far away. "Weather here is cloudy and chance of showers," he tapped, as Mr. Adams transcribed the words in a notebook. McClain signed off, and the radio went silent. "It will eventually die," Mr. Adams mused. "I'll hate to see it go. I won't have anybody to talk to. I'll have to go back to reading."

Thanks to The chaps from down under;- Paul MOBMAN

I hope to bring articles from fists down under and East Asia in future editions and I will be including them in their complete glory rather than the cut down versions stating from the next keynote so look out for that.

We get many new members that ask us for help with many of the abbreviations and terms that get used on the air today, below is a list of many of the common ones that are in use today

COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

AM	Morning	B4	Before
CONDX	conditions	ERE	Here
ES	and	EVNG	Evening
FB	Fine Business	FER	For
FM	from	MEBBE	Maybe
NITE	Night	PM	Afternoon
PSE	Please	TMW	Tomorrow
TNKS (TNX)	Thanks	TR	There
TT	That	U R	You are
UR (YR)	Your	VMT	Many thanks
VY	Very	WL	Will
YSTDY	Yesterday	CFM	Confirm

This is just a brief list, there are many more but generally they should be self-explanatory. If you are discussing cricket for instance, WKT would easily be interpreted as wicket but it would leave the EU station that knows nothing of the game completely in the cold so; be selective. As a general rule, ditch the vowels. A lot of operators are using MM for 'ch' thus: VY MUMM (very much). You will also hear an abbreviated version of numerals (A=1, U=2, N=9, T=0) and 1230 becomes AUV0. Of these however only N(9) and T(0) are in common use. Note that words ending in 'TION' are often abbreviated to XN thus: traction becomes TRAXN. It doesn't work with 'em all though so be selective. All this is in the name of brevity, which of course is highly desirable, but unless both operators are in accord, it is futile. If in doubt, stick to plain language.

The simplest way to ask a question is to make a statement and tack a jug handle on the end: YOU GO DOC? (Are you going to the Doctor)? This back to front approach is what causes beginners to buy more aspirins than any other aspect of CW working.

Another one, which you will hear, is the substitution of a leading hard 'C' with 'K': KONFUSED. The very valid criticism here is that it saves only one dit and I plead guilty but only because it is a long-standing habit that I find difficult to drop.

WHAT WAS THAT AGAIN?

How many times have we heard "SRI OM PLEASE REPEAT YOUR NAME de <Call>". So much simpler to say 'SRI=NAME? BK' (the = sign is the barred BT). Any repeat request can be dealt with thus: SRI=QTH? Or AGN FISTS NR? Etc.

ERRORS

Yes, we all make 'em. The rule here is: don't waste time correcting errors, which are obvious. Credit the other guy with sufficient intelligence to know what you mean despite spite of what you said.

CQ CALL

There is little more frustrating or downright maddening than the guy who sends a string of 27 CQs followed by his call (which he invariably makes a bog-up of). A single 3x3 string is adequate, being repeated if no reply. The very maximum you should seek to send is 3(3x3). I found that I got just as much joy from a 1x3 (CQ DE (GX3ZQS x 3) as I ever got from a 3x3 because it is terminated with a 'K' rather than a 'KN' making it clear to even those who only caught the end call that it was general.

QRL?

Before you call on a seemingly clear frequency or have been silent on your original frequency for any length of time, always check with QRL? Listen carefully, QRL? Again and if there is no response then assume it is unoccupied. By the same rule, if you hear QRL? Whilst listening to your contact, then say something or you may well end up with QRM. The fact that someone has had the courtesy to ask if the frequency is clear demands at least the return courtesy of a reply. A simple 'YES TNKS' should suffice but a curt QSY will probably result in an extended blast of QRM whilst the station concerned tells you exactly what he thinks about your manners.

If you respond to a CQ call, remember that the station you answered has priority and if someone else on closing calls you, organise a QSY. Continuing with the station that called you is tantamount to stealing the frequency and is just plain bad manners.

Do not send beyond the limitations of your own receiving speed. Chances are that you will be sending badly without being aware of it and in any case, you will be struggling if your contact answers at the same speed.

Adopt the speed of the other station unless QRQ is invited. Sending faster than the other guy is both bad mannered and futile since he may well be unable to read what you are sending.

Q-CODES

The accepted Q-Codes have been much mangled by the Amateur Service and rarely take on their original meaning. However, here are a few in general use with the original meaning in parentheses.

QMF	(Please net on my frequency)
QOF	Pure invention. Please use the other foot
QRA?	(What is your name or, more correctly at sea, what is the name of your vessel)?
QRK etc.	(Readability) in amateur use it becomes value thus: QRK 1/2/3/4/5
QRL	(I am busy) but with amateurs it is not necessarily radio oriented: QRL with garden.
QRO	(High power)
QRP	(Low power)
QRQ	(You may send faster)
QRS	(Please send slower) <i>and don't be afraid of using this one.</i>
QRT	(I am closing down)
QRU	(No more traffic)
QRV	(I am ready to receive) Used by amateurs as an indication of status i.e. QRV 30M (I am able work on 10.1 MHz.
QRX	(Please stand by)
QRZ	(You are being called by [stn]) or QRZ? (Who is calling me?)
QSP	(Please pass free of charge)
QTR	Time. My watch has fallen into the tea (What is the date/time group on this message)

INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

FISTS Logo

FISTS members are allowed to use the Logo's on their QSL Cards, Emails Letterheads etc.

Joint Membership

Spouses of members who are also licensed hams can be admitted to full membership at no extra charge. However only one Keynote will be sent.

QSL Bureau

We maintain a bureau for members wishing to send cards to other FISTS members. Incoming cards from FISTS members will be forwarded to you. This service is done at no extra cost to members OTHER THAN SSAE's TO YOUR QSL MANAGER.

Contact M0AVW m0avw1@ntlworld.com for your QSL Managers Address.

M0AVW

Mr.C.Spence

32,Woodford Walk

Harewood Park

Thornaby-on-Tees

TS17 0LT

England

FISTS Internet Sites

Our Internet site is at www.fists.co.uk The North American chapter maintains a comprehensive web site that is well worth a visit at www.fists.org Also www.fistsdownunder.org (ZL/VK members) and www.feacw.net for Members in: Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Uzbekistan are well worth a visit. If you want to enter the challenges we hold within FISTS. Visit www.m0bpt.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk (Unofficial site) For previous and current editions of "Brasspounder" The challenge newsletter.

Also, consider joining the FISTS Reflector.

Here you'll find a number of items of interest, Members photo's (Add yours), Members keys (Add yours), Challenge rules. Points of view etc.

Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fistscw/>

RULES FOR AWARDS FOR FISTS UK/EU MEMBERS

Basic Century Award

The Century Award is earned by working 100 points of FISTS members.

FISTS operating in your own Country = **1Point** (DXCC Rules apply)

FISTS operating outside of your own Country = **2Points**.

FISTS affiliated club stations = **3 points**.

FISTS national club calls GB2SCW, GX0IPX, GX3ZQS, MX5IPX, JL3MYV, KN0WCW, VK2FDU & ZL6FF = **5 points**.

FISTS awards log sheets are available to download from the files section of

FISTS UK reflector site <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fistscw/files/> Either in Adobe (.pdf) or MS Word (.doc) formats

Please note the Awards E-Mail applications address m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk
By land mail to;

Mr R.Walker
125, Devereux Road,
West Bromwich,
West Midlands.
B70 6RQ
England.

(Please note the rules for the G3ZQS Challenge differ)

GUIDELINES

For E-Mail Log Applications:

1. Only files accepted are MS Word or Excel
2. NO formatting in your log files such as; Borders, Colour text, Tables, Special Fonts etc.
3. ONE log submitted for each award with ALL contacts shown for that award.
4. NO Scanned log sheets will be accepted, that means no scanned images pasted into Word or Excel documents will be accepted either.
5. All QSO's listed in a single column. NO multiple columns in Word.
6. A SINGLE TAB between data fields of a QSO. No spaces. Example: CALL (TAB) DATE (TAB) BAND (TAB) FISTS#(TAB) POINTS.
Place ONLY one TAB character for each "(TAB)" in the example above. I do not care if the data lines up in nice little columns, just ONE TAB ONLY please.
7. Only data needed in logs is as follows:
Century Series Awards - Call, Date, Band, FISTS #, Points.
Platinum Series Awards - Call, Date, Band, CC number (NO Points needed for these awards.)
8. Include your Name. Call, FISTS # and address with each log and INDICATE the Award you are applying for.
9. Dupe Check Sheet NOT required for logs sent via e-mail.
10. Dupe check your log BEFORE sending it to me. Logs with excessive Dupes will be returned and not processed for your award.
Stamps are appreciated to help with award mail. (Note the awards are FREE)

For Paper Logs:-

1. A Dupe Check Sheet is required for ALL logs submitted with over 100 contacts listed. ONLY FISTS numbers are to be used on the Dupe Check Sheet NOT Call Signs. FISTS numbers are used so to eliminate number Dupes when call signs are changed.
2. Send ONLY a copy of your award log, NOT your Original Log. (Some original logs have been lost in the mail)
3. One log for each award applied for with ALL contacts needed for that award.
4. DO NOT send a copy of your entire log with FISTS contacts highlighted. Send ONLY the data needed for the award log.
- 5 Stamps are appreciated to help with award mail. (Note the awards are FREE)
6. Please include a note if you want your log returned to you. I DO NOT keep paper logs nor will I return them to you unless you ask me to do so. Stamps are appreciated to help with award mail.
7. Only data needed in logs is as follows:-
Century Series Awards - Call, Date, Band, FISTS #, Points.
Platinum Series Awards - Call, Date, Band, CC number. (No points needed for these awards).
8. Include your Name, Call, FISTS # and Address with each log and Indicate the Award you are applying for.
9. Dupe check your log BEFORE sending it to me. That's the purpose of the Dupe Check Sheet. Logs with excessive Dupes will be returned and not processed for your award.

Following these Guidelines will help me to give you faster service and a quick turn around time for your award certificates.

A FISTS member can only be counted once.

You don't have to be a FISTS member at the time of the contact, but the person you are claiming for Century Award points must be a FISTS member AT THE TIME OF THE CONTACT. For example, if you QSO with someone who is not a FISTS member, but if they join FISTS after the QSO; you must work them again for the point(s). You cannot count the QSO before they joined FISTS, toward the Century Award. Once completed, your log should be verified as having been checked by another licensed Radio Amateur.

<u>Other Classes of Awards</u>	
<u>The Silver Century Award</u>	has the same rules as the Basic Century and is for a total of 250 points. Points used to claim the Basic Century may be used toward the Silver Century Award.
<u>The Golden Century Award</u>	has the same rules as the Basic Century, but it is for a total of 500 points. Points used to claim the earlier Century Awards may be used toward the Golden Century Award.
<u>The Diamond Century Award</u>	has the same rules as the Basic Century, but it is for a total of 1000 points. Points used to claim the earlier Century Awards may be used toward the Diamond Century.
<u>QRP Awards.</u>	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.
<u>The Platinum Award</u>	is earned by working 100 different Century Certificate holders. The Century Certificate (CC) number must be obtained during an on-air QSO. Each CC number is only counted once, for a total of 100 numbers, regardless of location or band.
<u>The 250 Platinum Award</u>	The 250 Platinum Award is for 250 century award holder contacts.
<u>The 500 Century Award</u>	<u>The 500 Century Award</u> is for 500 Century Award holder Contacts.

BRASSPOUNDER

For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge.

Welcome.

Here we are again, and, as the end of 2007 appears on the horizon. We always ask ourselves "Where has the time gone?" From a personal point of view, it's been a hectic but very rewarding year for me. The activities provided within FISTS seem to be gaining in popularity within the Membership. Nice to see more new calls appearing in the tables. More members seem to be active on air when we do have an activity ongoing. Lets hope that 2008 sees even more of you join in and submit a log.

Now, I'd like to clear up a matter that has surfaced since the last edition of Key-note was published. I must make a point to you all regarding the FISTS 20th anniversary challenge, which will be active during December. There has been (Justified) concern from a member regarding the use of the WARC bands during this activity. I had considered removing the WARC allocation from the activity. But, I have decided to allow their use.

BUT ONLY IF THESE GUIDELINES ARE FOLLOWED.

DO NOT CALL "CQ FISTS" ON THE FREQUENCIES THAT WE NORMALLY MAY BE FOUND ON! (OR ANYWHERE ELSE ON THE WARC's) A GENERAL CQ MUST BE USED AND ALL REPLIES MUST BE ANSWERED WHETHER THEY ARE FISTS MEMBERS OR NOT! ALL EXCHANGES OF FISTS NUMBERS ETC. ON THE WARCS MUST BE INCIDENTAL TO THE QSO. HAVE GENERAL CHAT, NO NUMBER EXCHANGING AND RUNNING!

I'm aware that this seems obvious to those who use the bands on a regular basis. But there is a genuine concern from our colleague that there could be a possibility of rudeness and ignorance by members to other amateurs who are not members of FISTS. Also, we do not want to be known as the society who started using the WARC's for "Contests" etc. This has never been part of my thinking! As many of you may be aware, I've always advocated the use of the WARC frequencies. They are a much underused and misunderstood allocation to the amateur service. And a haven from the "EU (And further afield) Zoo" That erupts on the harmonically related

frequencies. In retrospect, perhaps I should have made myself clearer to the masses. But now I hope everyone will be clear of what's expected when using the WARC frequencies if they decide to join the activity.

Straight Key Week (SKW) 2007 was active between the 2nd and the 8th of September. Lets take a look at the results and reports from participants.

Before I get on with the long awaited results of SKW 2007. I'd like to say a big "THANK YOU" To all who supported the activity. Not only the members who took an active part in the week and sent in an entry, but also to those from the membership who were on air actively supporting the activity! I noticed by the amount of "FISTS Nr xxx" in the logs submitted to me that it certainly was an active SKW. Lots more members on air! Also, it was a real pleasure to see the amount of recently joined members of the society in the logs. This too, of course is reflected in the scores. Which are considerably higher than last year. I hope that next year we can improve on the 2007 SKW with even more of the membership blowing the dust off their straight keys and joining in the fun. Making SKW 2008 an exciting prospect to all members of the society. To everyone who did join in, send in your log in 2008! Don't think, "I didn't do well enough" When you see the results published in here a little later, I hope you'll think, "I did better than that" Once again. Thanks to all for making SKW 2007 a success. (Even though condx were lousy Hi)

Lets take a look at band reports and general comments from those who were chasing the numbers during the week.

Firstly. Peter. G3JFS #8985.

Hi Robert, Attached is my log for the Fists SKW. Conditions were, if anything, worse than last year and although I have a better log this time it is due to more activity by members and having more time to spare for operating. 10 and 15m were completely dead except for 15m on Day 7 after 3B7C started up. Then there was bedlam for a short period before the band faded out. Altogether I had 259 contacts with 46 countries in 6 continents. Best dx on 40m was W. Australia and Indonesia with Guyana, Kuwait, Senegal and Uruguay on 20m. Several Fists members from across the pond were worked on 20/40m but these were difficult contacts because of extremely poor transatlantic propagation. I know I missed a few calls from the US that I could not copy because of high noise and deep, deep

QSB. The high level of activity by members was welcomed and I hope this is reflected in the number of logs you get. From a rough count I had 114 Fists contacts with 64 different members. As always 80m was the best band for member contacts but I do wish stations would spread out in busy periods instead of all trying to work on or close to the calling channel when several kHz either side are clear. The relaxed operating style of SKW and similar events does allow lots of interesting contacts to be made and two that I would mention are firstly with Tony, GØPEH #1651 who was running 2 watts from a home-made paraset. The other on Day 7 was with Colin, M3WCK #13231 to give him his very first Fists contact with his new membership number obtained the previous day at the Leicester rally.

73 Peter G3JFS ex GM3JFS, VK6AI, 5Z4PQ and DA1PE.

Thanks Peter for a very interesting account of your week's activity. Certainly, Tony. GØPEH with his Paraset at two watts worthy of a mention, and what a pleasure to hear that Colin. M3WCK was airing his Membership number just 24 hours or less after receiving it from the Leicester Rally, and you being his first FISTS Contact. I will add that Peter does make a very valid point about congestion around the recommended frequencies. I tend to move down a little and give out general "CQ's" And hope other members do the same.

From "Jakey" G3JKY #6462.

"Sorry I couldn't spend more time on air. On the 1st I was recovering from SSB FD. And on the 6th I was in the RAFARS Contest! And on the evening of the 7th I was playing trombone in a jazz band at Crowborough! 73. "Jakey"

Good to hear from you Jakey. You had a busy week! Thanks for finding time to get on air!

From Len. G3LHS #13214.

Hello Robert. I started late due to lack of time but it was a chance to meet members, G4LHI, G3HAL, G3VRU and G3JFS after I'd "Blown the dust off the straight keys" A WT8 Amp with G4LHI & G3HAL. And a GPO 2101 with G3VRU & G3JFS. All contacts were made with 5W from my Alinco DX70.

Good to hear from you Len. And nice to hear that you've blown the dust off the straight keys! It's always nice to hear that members fetch their keys out of retirement for the event.

From Mike. G4NCU #6061.

Herewith my log for the skw, unfortunately I could not make the last day, but had great fun meeting old friends and some new. It was good to use my old TS520 with an old army key for the 48 set. 73 Mike G4NCU.

Always a pleasure to hear from you Mike. There's something both yourself and Peter G3JFS (And others) have commented on which I'll pick up on later.

From Tony. G3ZRJ #7727.

Hi Rob,

Please accept my log for SKW 2007, this is my first "go" at an entry for SKW, I have tried to ensure all info is as you requested in Brasspounder.

My station during SKW was Kenwood TS-850 set to 80W except if operating in/near QRP freqs when I went to between 5 and 10 Watts, antenna is a half-wave on 80M with about 45 feet of 600 ohm open wire feeder via coax choke into coax, the internal ATU tunes this on all 9 HF bands.

I used my copy of a GPO coast station key for all QSO's in SKW; it was good to shake off some of the rust off my hand-keying fist.

I very much enjoyed SKW; I had some great chats with some terrific ops, thanks very much for a very enjoyable week. I did the AGCW Straight Key Party on 1st Sept so I was pounding brass for 8 days in all. Thanks again for organising SKW it really was fun,

73 Tony G3ZRJ FISTS 7727 FOC 1774 RNARS 889.

Welcome Tony. I'm very pleased you've enjoyed your 1st SKW. Lets hope we'll see you in 2008.

Tony kindly sent in some images of his keys and an image of himself at the operating position at G3ZRJ.



Hi Robert, as promised, a photo of me with the station used in SKW, the key is a copy of the GPO coast station keys. The other keys in use are a rather battered J36 bug and a twin paddle made by David VK3DBD/G3SCD, which I use via a Logikey K-1.

From Peter. G4LHI #2219.

Hello Robert, I attach my claim for the SK Week. Really enjoyed this year, seemed a lot more activity than last year & I even managed to find Stan, K4UK, on 7 MHz just before closing time after a few failed calls during the week, many thanks Stan. Many thanks also to Roy with a few of his Scarborough Club Call signs & 3 pointers. Thanks also to all members that joined in the fun of the week & some that we worked on each day of the week. 73, Peter. G4LHI.

Always a pleasure to hear from you Peter. Glad to hear that you've enjoyed SKW this year.

From Derek. MØDRK #8344

Hi Robert, Please find attached my log for SKW 2007. Though I only popped up now and again; it was a most enjoyable week. None of the QSO's were "Rubber stamp variety" Eric, G3VRU was always ready for a nice chat. On both QSO's we had, one was 48 min's long and the other 44 min's. I did meet a couple of new (to me) members as well. Many thanks to all who gave me points. Sorry we missed you all at Donnington. 73 for now, Derek MØDRK

Good to hear from you also Derek. Pleasing to hear that people still have time to have a good chat.

From Stan. K4UK #2934.

Rob - MOBPT:

Enclosed my log for the SKW. Also the picture of the NP4FW straight key. As you can see he used a hinge and mounted it on a very nice piece of wood and painted on some Indian symbols. I even used the straight key for a few contacts on the 30 Meters during the week. Was pleased to work Alf, G3UAA - Peter, G3JFS - Tony, G3ZRJ - Peter, G4LHI during the SKW. Even worked Tony on two bands. I had to call it quits after my QSO with G4LHI. I ended up with a total of 66 QSO's and 126 points during the SKW. It was fun and I did have some quite surprising QSO's including one with Alan VK6BN in Perth on 7.028 MHz on the 5th. Breakdown by bands: 11 on 80 Meters, 38 on 40 Meters and 17 on 20 Meters. I ran the K2 at 15 Watts for all contacts except the last four when I fired up my Ten-Tec OMNI 6 at 90 Watts to see if I could put a stronger signal over the big pond. Was a lot of fun using that home-built straight key. I'm making QSL cards with a picture of that key on them for all contacts I had. Got an Email from Tony, G3ZRJ and he really enjoyed the event. Really surprising to find so many FISTS members on 80 and 40 Meters. I've been spending most of my time on the WARC bands over the past couple of years that I didn't know of the activity on the other bands. - Hi! Also quite a few members of SKCC (Straight Key Century Club) are on the air. I'm member # 1941.

Thanks for all you do promoting FISTS and amateur radio.

73, Stan - K4UK



Here's an image of the NP4FW homebrew Straight Key used by K4UK during SKW. I'm going to suggest that this was possibly the only Homebrew key in use this year. (Unless of course, you know differently?) The second image is of K4UK at his operating position, which comes from a library picture that I have.

Thanks for your kind words (It's a team effort) Report and information Stan. As ever, a pleasure to have you on board for the 1st time in our SKW. I hope you'll make it a regular entry. It was nice to hear, considering the band condx, that all but four QSO's were achieved at 15w.

(As a matter of interest, lets find out what the most unusual thing that YOU have used as a Key. Can be past or present. Share your story with us, if you've got an image, even better! I know we have ex military, merchant marine, and coastguard op's etc. amongst us. So lets hope someone will have a story to share! I can be reached via the usual channels. Hope to hear from you!)

Just one more thing to do. That's publish the 2007 SKW results... But before I do, I want to pick up on comments made by G3JFS and G4NCU (And others) in their reports on SKW. G3JFS commented on the "Relaxed operating style of SKW" G4NCU remarked "Great fun meeting old friends and new" G3ZRJ and K4UK remarked "Very enjoyable week" and "It was fun" MØDRK commented that it was a "Most enjoyable week" These comments tell me that SKW 2007 has been a success. With more members of the society active during the week than there has been for some time. Hope you'll all put the 2008 dates in your diaries, and of course, blow the dust of the pump keys that you all have hiding away in the darkest corners of your shacks! OK. Here are the results at long last.

1*	G3JFS	377
2*	G4LHI	290
3*	G3ZRJ	192
4	K4UK	126
5	G4NCU	114
6	G0MRH	63
7	G3HAL	61
8	M0DRK	60
9	G3HEL	46
10	G3JKY	44
11	OH7QR	41
12	G8XGQ	26
13	G3LHS	8
*	Denotes	Certificate Winner

Congratulations go to Peter G3JFS for winning the 2007 SKW. Putting Peter G4LHI into second place. 2006 SKW saw G4LHI in first place and G3JFS in second place, so this year shows a change of place for the two.

Congratulations go to Peter G4LHI also for his fine second place score. And a special "Well Done" Must go to Tony G3ZRJ for getting on the winners podium with his first attempt and his excellent third place score. Certificates to the top three. That's about it for SKW 2007. Again, many thanks to all who supported the activity. Till the next time, keep well, keep bashing the brass!

A Mention and thanks must go to Pol, G3HAL #8367 who supplied a check log for me for the whole weeks activity and entered a log for five days of the activity. **Here are some images of the award winners of SKW 07**



1st Peter G3JFS



2nd Peter G4LHI



3rd Tony G3ZRJ

G3JFS informed me that his trusty 1947 Raymart Speed key is still doing him proud and been used to make 700+ QSO's since SKW 06. He commented "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 superglue the bar magnet to a thimble. In the distant past I have had contacts by tapping two bare wires together" Interesting thoughts Peter. I like the thought of the thimble on the chassis of the valve radio...Ok folks...lets see if anyone else has thought about Peter's idea, and, will anyone own up to trying out the idea? The ladder and WARC Challenge have been going along quite nicely. Condx have been a factor, which is reflected in the scores. It never ceases to amaze me how participants manage to wheedle out the contacts that they do. From a personal point of view. I believe that I've evolved into a "Lazy DX'er". If it lands on my doorstep then I'll take it! It's always nice to get an exotic/unusual call in the log. But I won't join the shouting match that erupts on the band. Before I get on to the ladder and WARC Tables. I want to make you aware of the activity calendar for 2008, which will be published in this edition. Things remain virtually unchanged for 2008. Except...It's FISTS 21st year!

I've decided to mark the occasion by holding a 21st Year "Coming of Age" Activity. The full guidelines are to be found in this edition, It's not far removed from the 20-20 Activity that'll be running during December.

The notable thing about this activity is the fact that I'm offering separate awards for each chapter of FISTS. i.e. FISTS EU will have their own awards, as will FISTS NA, FISTS DU and FISTS EA. By doing this I'm expecting that members of FISTS Worldwide will be active on air during 2008 meeting up on air and lets hope new friendships will be forged during the activity! It is operational for six months of the year. The society only reaches 21 just once. So the activity is going to be unique in that respect!

Note the power levels! Which will create a balanced event for all!

That's enough chat from me for this edition, lets take a look at the ladder and WARC tables for this year so far.

LADDER	TOTALS 2007									
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	TOTALS
CALL										
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
MODRK	13	8	10	12	0	13	0	12	0	68
MOJRO	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

G4LHI Still maintains his lead in the ladder activity with just three months to go. The ladder is operational on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month between the hours of 1400-1600 and 1800-2000 UTC. Come on and meet other members. Full guidelines can be found by accessing the "Contest Rules 2007" link on the FISTS UK website. www.fists.co.uk.

On to the WARC Challenge table.

WARC Totals 2007

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	MULT	MAS- TER	PWR
G4LHI	149	131	119	187	124	137	68	68	75	68	71	944	QRO		
F2YT	431	575	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	70	420	QRO		
K4UK	55	99	30	97	49	34	56	41	58	93	48	267	QRP		
IK2RMZ	106	73	91	147	148	108	35	99	54	45	38	745	QRO		
OH7QR	59	68	115	30	30	35	28	27	46	30	13	140	QRO		
W4YE	26	28	14	42	18	54	62	52	29	40	13	000	QRO		
DL1GBZ	0	0	0	46	57	22	66	70	20	17	4	777	QRO		
W4FCR©	0	2	1	0	18	83	9	0	13	32	4	032	QRO		
K4ORD	4	20	21	16	6	21	15	4	0	21	2	247	QRP		
KA3NZR	5	24	7	27	9	8	2	0	35	22	2	574	MIXED		
SM0PMJ	0	0	0	0	30	63	0	60	53	12	2	472	QRO		
2E0TEK	16	0	23	16	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	75	QRO		
G8XGQ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	8	0	QRO		
PA3AFF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	QRO		

I've decided to run the WARC Challenge for another year. So it will be operational during 2008. Lets hope the bands will improve during the coming year for all the events planned.

Before I show the activity calendar for 2008 (Don't forget the 20-20 Activity running during December, Guidelines in the previous Keynote)

It's time for me to say "Many thanks" to all who've supported the events within the Society over the past year. I'm hoping to meet many of you over the coming months on air or even at one of the Amateur Rallies that FISTS attends.

Finally, some news, which, we hope you'll all find welcome.

The FISTS EU Management team have decided to re-introduce the

"FIST OF THE YEAR AWARD"

This award will be given to a society member who you, the membership decide has done the most for CW and the society during the year. A voting form will be included in the last Keynote of the year, for the membership to cast their vote.

The result will be announced in the 1st Keynote of the New Year. This is an award by you, the membership to a society member, recognising his or her

efforts during the year"

FISTS Worldwide 21st ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITY.

<u>DATES</u> <u>TIMES</u> <u>BANDS</u> <u>POWER</u> <u>OUTPUTS</u>	The months of: February. April. June. August. October. & December 2008 All times UTC. 1.8MHz – 30MHz. Class “A” QRO Max TX Output 100w Class “B” QRP Max TX Output 5w (LOGS must show Class of entry)
<u>CALL</u>	“CQ FISTS ” ON RECOMMENDED FISTS FREQUENCIES. +/- (160m) 1.818MHz-(80m) 3.558MHz-(40m) 7.028MHz-(20m) 14.058MHz-15m) 21.058MHz (10m) 28.058MHz (Observing your Countries Band plan) NO WARC! (All frequencies +/- If working QRO be aware of the recognised QRP frequencies!)
<u>EXCHANGE</u>	DATE-CALL-NAME-QTH-FISTS NR.
<u>GENERAL</u>	Only Fists members will count for points in the activity. A member can only be claimed ONCE on each band. 1 point for each member worked. (National club calls=5points. Member clubs=3points) When you’ve worked 21 DIFFERENT members on a particular band you can double the points. (21 points becomes 42 points) (If you decide to remain on that particular band, you must work another 21 DIFFERENT members before gaining double points again. Or move on to another band) At the end of the activity, you may count each band that you’ve worked 21 or more members as a multiplier. Example. M9XYZ works 30 members on 160m=51points. 21 members on 80m=42points. 21 members on 40m=42points. 17 members on 20m=17points. Total points=152 x 3=456points.
<u>LOGS</u>	To include: DATE-CALL-BAND-QTH-FISTSNR-POINTS CLAIMED. Logs to submitted after the active sessions by the 10 th of the following months. (IE After February session, log to reach me by the 10 th March & so forth.) Ongoing results published on my Web-site www.m0bpt.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk and in Keynote throughout the year.
<u>FORMATS ACCEPTED</u>	Excel. (Preferred) csv. MS Word. Notepad. WordPad. Etc.
<u>SEND TO</u>	Email: m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk Post: R.D.Walker 125, Devereux Road. West Bromwich. West Midlands. B70 6RQ. ENGLAND
<u>AWARDS</u>	Overall winner: (Most recorded points) Award with Call, Name, and Year. Etc. (Certificates for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd places will be available for each FISTS Chapter. i.e. FISTS EU Award, FISTS NA Award, FISTS DU Award. And FISTS EA Award)

G3ZQS WARC BAND CHALLENGE

Dates	00.01 1st January to 23.59 31st December. UTC
Bands	30M, 17M &12M
Scoring	1 point non members, 2 points fists members, 3 points Fists club Stations.
Exchange	FISTS nr, or NM, and IARU locator square, (Four character format) which can be used as a multiplier for the total number of contacts made during the year.
Example	#5576 (or) NM IARU Loc IO82. FOR THE LOCATOR SQUARE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A MULTIPLIER, A CLUB MEMBER MUST HAVE BEEN WORKED WITHIN THE SQUARE. i.e. G9XYZ scores 2,400 points and gains 12 different locator squares on a combination of all three WARC Bands. = 2,400 x 12 = 28,800. REPEAT STATIONS: CAN ONLY BE WORKED A MAXIMUM OF FOUR TIMES PER MONTH.
Awards	Outright winner: The "G3ZQS" Award with your call, year, etc, Engraved. 1st Runner up: certificate 2nd Runner up: Certificate. A certificate will also be awarded to the highest points scored by a QRP entrant. (Max 5w output at the transmitter) endorsed accordingly. Therefore all entrants must declare their power output. A certificate will also be awarded to the highest scoring "Receiving station" log.
Logs	To include; date/call/name/locator/qrg/rst/time/Fists nr or nm/points scored
Example	M0BPT rob IO82 30m 579/599 11.48 #5576 or nm 2pts or 1pt
Send to:	Land mail: R.D.Walker 125, Devereux Road West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 6RQ England. or email Monthly returns by the14th of the next month By email in excel/csv/tabbed word format if possible please.
General	The purpose of the challenge is to promote activity on the WARC Bands It is not a contest. CALL "CQ" on or around the following frequencies; 30m-10.118/10.128 MHz: 17m-18.085 MHz: 12m-24.918 MHz PLEASE NOTE, These activities are meant to be fun and friendly as well as competitive. Any contact not showing the required return information will be excluded from the total scores.

LADDER 2008

DATES	January 200 to December 2008.UTC To be run on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month.
Times	TWO, TWO HOUR SESSIONS OPERATING BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 1400-1600 AND 1800-2000. ALL TIMES UTC! NOTE: You can only submit ANY TWO of your two-hour sessions out of a possible four!
Frequencies	All licensed amateur bands except the WARC bands.
Scoring	5 points FISTS club station, 3 points for a Fists affiliated Club Station, 2 points for a Fist member, 1 point for a non-member. A station can only count once on each Sunday.
Logs	DATE/CALL/NAME/QTH/QRG/RST/TIME/FIST No or NM/POINTS SCORED.
Dates	Jan 13th/27th - Feb10th /24th - March 9th/23th - April 13th/27th - May 11th/25th - June 8th/22nd – July 13th/27th Aug 10th/24th - Sept 14th/28th - Oct 12th/26th – Nov 9th/23th - Dec 14th/28th
General	PLEASE vacate or pass on the FIST calling frequency after 5 continuous QSO's or QSY off the calling frequency. PLEASE NOTE, These activities are meant to be fun and friendly as well as competitive. Any contact not showing the required return information will be excluded from the total scores.
Send to:	All entries can be received by post or E-mail to; R.D.Walker, 125, Devereux Road, West Bromwich.B70 6RQ. Email m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk All logs are to be received by the 5th of the next month

MIXED KEY WEEK 2008

Dates	0001 UTC on 2nd March to 2359 UTC on 8th March 08. UTC
Frequency	All licensed amateur bands except the WARC bands.
Rules	A station can only be worked once on each band during the week. A multiplier of 2 points for every station Worked on 5 or more bands during the week, can be used against the total weekly score.
Scoring	5 points for a FISTS club station, 3 points for a FISTS Affiliated Club Station, 2 points for a Fist Member. 1 point for a Non Member.
Logs	to include CALL/NAME/QTH/QRG/TIME/FIST No or NM/ POINTS.
General	PLEASE vacate or pass on the FIST calling frequency after 5 continuous QSO's or QSY off the calling frequency. TOTALS to show weekly score times the number of stations worked on 5 or more bands during the week. All returns are to be received by the 25th March 07. Any type of key or keyer may be used, but no keyboard sending or pre-programmed messages from computers or keyers allowed. PLEASE NOTE, These contests are meant to be fun and friendly as well as competitive. Any contact not showing the required return information will be excluded from the total scores.
Send To:	All entries can be received by post to: R.D.Walker, 125, Devereux Road, West Bromwich. B70 6RQ. Or email m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk in Excel/csv/tabbed word document format if possible please.

EUCW QRS PARTY 2008

General	FISTS CW Club invites all radio amateurs to take part in the annual EUCW/FISTS QRS Party over five days, Monday-Friday, in April each year. This is not a contest . Just enjoy plenty of slow Morse activity for a period of five days. The dates selected are intended to avoid week-end contest activity. Work any station, including members of EUCW clubs (see below), but send only in QRS. Standard QSO's with non-participating stations can be included in logs.
Dates/ Times	Monday 28th April 2008, 0001 UTC, to Friday 2 nd May2008, 2359 UTC.
Mode	CW only
Power	A - More than 10w input or 5w output power B - QRP (10w input or 5w output, or less) C - Short wave listeners.
Call	CQ QRS. Stations may be worked once per day, per band.
Frequencies	Recommended areas of activity, +/- 10 kHz of the FISTS calling frequencies, including WARC bands (see below), but contacts can be made on any frequency. Non-QRP stations should avoid calling CQ on the popular QRP frequencies (see below).
Keys/ Speeds	Use any type of key or keyer. No keyboard sending or pre-programmed messages from computers or keyers, but pre-programmed CQ calls or CQ loops are permitted. Maximum speed 14 words per minute (70 cpm). The speed of a QSO should be at the speed of the slower station.
Contacts	Normal friendly QSO's, no special requirements. QSO's with any station count. Work any station in any country, including stations not taking part in the QRS Party but try to persuade them to work QRS.
Logs	Logs should show Date, Time, Call sign, Name, QTH and EUCW Club/Number (if appropriate) of the stations worked/heard, and may include up to three votes for "Most Readable Morse Heard" (one vote per station).
Feedback	This is not a contest, but logs and feedback will be welcomed in the following classes: A - More than 10w input or 5w output power B - QRP (10w input or 5w output, or less) C - Short wave listeners.
AWARDS	A) A certificate will be awarded to the three participants working/hearing the most stations in each class. B) Certificates of Merit will be awarded to the three operators receiving most votes for the "Most Readable Morse Heard", provided the operators nominated have also submitted a log. If the operators receiving the most votes have not submitted a log the certificates of merit will be awarded to the qualifying operators with the next highest number of votes. In the event of a tie in first, second or third places, multiple certificates will be awarded, marked "Shared Award". C) A "NEWCOMERS AWARD" Will be issued to a person who uses the QRS PARTY WEEK for their 1 st "On Air" QSO. This must be verified by an EUCW Member.
SEND LOGS TO:	FISTS/EUCW QRS Party Organizer: Surficemail: Robert Walker M0BPT, 125,Devereux Road, West Bromwich, B70 6RQ. England. OR EMAIL To be received by surface mail or e-mail not later than 31st May 2008.
General Informa- tion	FISTS calling frequencies : Recommended area of activity +/- 10 kHz 2m 144.058 MHz 6m Use any authorized CW frequency 10m 28.058 MHz 12m 24.918 MHz 15m 21.058 MHz 17m 18.085 MHz 20m 14.058 MHz 30m 10.118/10.128 MHz 40m 7.028 MHz 80m 3.558 MHz 160m 1.808 MHz QRP CW Calling Frequencies to be avoided by non-QRP stations. 1843; 3560; 7030; 10116; 14060; 18096; 21060; 24906; 28060 kHz.

STRAIGHT KEY WEEK 2008

Date	0001 UTC on 7th September to 2359 on 13th September 08. UTC
Frequency	All licensed amateur bands except the WARC bands.
Scoring	5 points FISTS club stations, 3 points for a FISTS affiliated Club Station, 2 points for a FIST Member, 1 point for a Non Member.
Exchange	RST/NAME/QTH/FIST No or NM/DAY No. Sunday is Day 1 Monday is Day 2 and so on To Saturday as Day 7. All entrants must have used a straight Key for all their QSO's but the worked station does not have to use a straight key.
Logs	to include DATE/CALL/NAME/QTH/QRG/RST/TIME/FIST No or NM/DAY No/POINTS. All entries to be received by the 22nd September 08.
General	PLEASE vacate or pass on the FIST calling frequency after 5 continuous QSO's or QSY off the calling frequency. PLEASE NOTE, These contests are meant to be fun and friendly as well as competitive. Any contact not showing the required return information will be excluded from the total scores.
Send Logs To:	All entries can be received by post to; R.D.Walker, 125, Devereux Road, West Bromwich. B70 6RQ. or by EMAIL m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk in Excel/csv/tabbed word format if possible please

A busy 2008 ahead, should you wish to involve yourself with all the events planned for the coming year. Bear in mind, these events are an agreeable place to be for members working towards awards within FISTS, meeting fellow members. And of course, a place where members of our society can form lasting friendships!

73, see you in 2008.

Robert. MØBPT.

Happy Christmas from us too.

Club Sales Page



Welcome to the club sales page.

We have a few items that are now available for members

Hard enamelled badges £2.00 Inc postage.

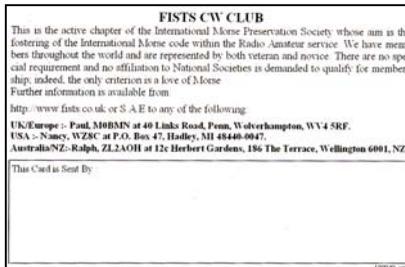
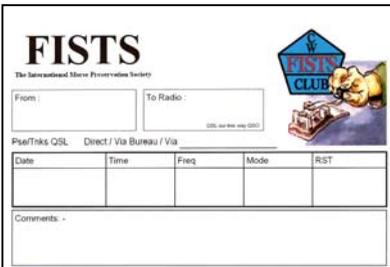
Car window Stickers (Vinyl stick inside the glass) £1 each inc Postage



QSL Cards (with your own custom design on the front) £12.50 per 100 inc postage



Standard FISTS QSL Cards, fill in your own details. £7.00 per 100 inc Postage



NEW Leather Key Rings
 £2.00 Inc Postage



For a better look at these items go to the FISTS web site www.fists.co.uk and follow the link for Club Sales.

Orders can be placed now and sent to:

Anne Webb
40 Links Road,
Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 5RF.

Cheques should be made payable to FISTS.



Seasons Greetings

*Happy Christmas and we hope the new year is a
good one for you.*

From all at Fists