



Greetings all FISTS

Apologies for the lack of BP recently but there has been a period of serious technical difficulty *vis a vis* computers here at YVM Towers. Essentially my Macbook gave up the ghost - first the battery died, which cost me, then the keyboard and mouse pad - which didn't - but it never really regained full serviceability. Then, amidst all this, I lost access to Windows 365 or whatever its called, so had no editing rights to any of the usual Microsoft tools. I dislike microsoft windows and all the garbage that comes with it and if we accept that I had had the old laptop and software for ten years, you can imagine that I had zero clue about fixing any of this.

My wonderful son came through in the end and sorted it all or me - I'm not quite sure how or what he did and there are some wonderful new tools in the Apple package which I shall probably forget exists, but the bottom line is...Houston, we no longer have a problem.

I had another issue recently, this time with my main rig, the amazing FTdx101MP. Some of you will know how expensive this radio is – I was fortunate indeed to get one – so when it started going a tad deaf at start up on 20m I was surprised and disappointed in equal measure. I am confident it is a t/r change over relay somewhere in the chain and was prepared to take the case off and have a look but then it dawned on me that at 2.5 years old the beast is still really Yaesu's problem. I took it in person to Fareham, the new Yaesu UK base, and handed it over. First I had a chat to Darren, one of the 'gingerbeers' there. He said that he reckons the FTdx101series is currently Yaesu's best offering and he says he has no more than 5 a year for repair. I think that's good. When I got home I had a mooch about the Facebook Yaesu FTdx groups and found that about five more 101s have the same problem mine has. Oddly, no one has taken their rigs back! If they don't do that how will Yaesu ever know there's a problem - and I assured the users that there IS. Problem and that it should not be put up with.

Anyway, as it stands my radio is still with Yaesu. I expect it back in a few weeks, hopefully, because I have a SES callsign to use in August - [GB4DOG](#).

GB4DOG

A SES event running throughout August. Last year my QSL card featured my late friend Yagi, this year it features Buggy a daft golden Labrador. The lump on his neck is just that and given the location, nigh on impossible to remove. *C'est la vie*. Buggy is a rescue dog, as was Yagi. We have three dogs currently but all our dogs in the last 40 years have been rescue: that's a lot of pooches as we rarely have fewer than 3. Anyway, regardless of cause, I'm a sucker for a SES callsign as I love the excitement of giving away points etc etc to chasers. Do listen out for me. The article below is one of our publicity articles.



When a group of radio operators begin calling “CQ International Dog Day” in August, they’re not just looking for QSOs.

They are in search of people who have room in their hearts to help the abandoned, abused and homeless dogs around the world in whatever way they can. These dozen or so special event operators know the power of rescue because they’ve been deeply involved in it themselves: Hanz YL3JD and his wife opened their home – first in Holland, later in Latvia – and have given needy dogs a second chance at a new family. In Australia, and later in Germany, Ed DD5LP and his wife discovered – several times – that their household was incomplete without canine company. Many of the other operators’ rescued dogs were adopted after hard lives on the street; others were at the pound, hours away from being euthanized.

International Dog Day (and in the US, National Dog Day) is August 26 every year. The tradition was created by US pet advocate Colleen Paige as a day to recognise the needs of society’s unwanted and cast-off dogs and affirm the commitment to adopt, donate or raise awareness of their special needs.

Hanz amplified the original message by adding an amateur radio component in 2022, taking the special-event callsign YL1DOG and operating as a single station. The following year he was joined by Chris, G5VZ, and David, G4YVM, in the UK. By 2024, a team of eight US rescue-dog advocates, operating as K2D, had come on board. This year is the biggest yet, as hams in Germany and other countries run with the pack. All operators will be looking to hear from dog-lovers and supporters in either CW or SSB on HF, on VHF/UHF simplex, or via DMR and Echolink.

The international team has added incentive certificates, including special endorsements such as “Full Kennel,” the equivalent of a clean sweep. Their website, dogdayradio.org, is updated regularly with the operators’ special-event callsigns, their operating schedules, a chance to meet the dogs who inspired them and hear their stories.

In case you are wondering where the cats are – well, they’re running ahead of the dogs! International Cat Day will be operating as a separate event, two weeks before the Dog Day operators get on the air – and they will be carrying a similar message for cat-rescue awareness. See catdayradio.org for details.

For live updates of both events, to search for the different callsigns, to see the operators' schedules or to apply for and download award certificates visit these links when they become available:

<https://hamlog.online/icd>

<https://hamlog.online/idd>

Meanwhile, be aware that all special-event operators will be working like dogs – and why not? – because they want to hear and share as many rescue stories as they can.

A cautionary tale...

A friend asked me to knock up a simple 9v powersupply for him...no worries I said. I ordered a 2amp 9v unit off the webulite and changed the plugs and Bobs yer uncle. Or so I thought! Who'd have ever imagined that coming from China the red and black wires would have been wired in reverse? Not me that's for sure...red is neg, black is pos. My friend isn't happy.

On Air...

I worked a few of you this month, notably Alan MW0BGL and Lindy G0GZN with whom I have had many chats over the years. Lindy has the amazingly low FISTS number of just 37! Given that she looks so youthful I always have to do a double take when she sends it...but it's right! I've been using my K2 and a few watts so forgive me if the signal isn't up to standard!!

Anyway, onto the tables...

The crossword seemed to please most folks, so perhaps you can expect another in due course. Graham and I did agree to accept one answer instead of another for part of it because it fitted the gaps and could have been construed as the right answer. I hate being churlish and always allow maximum flexibility whenever I can.

It seems also that the sprints were an exciting development! I'm so glad that these simple events keep people happy - they are great fun to arrange and think of and Graham and I genuinely had much fun with the crossword - me in creating it and him in getting the IT right. In fact you will have observed that Graham was so excited he made his own!

That's all for this month. Have a great radio month and may the bands be with you...

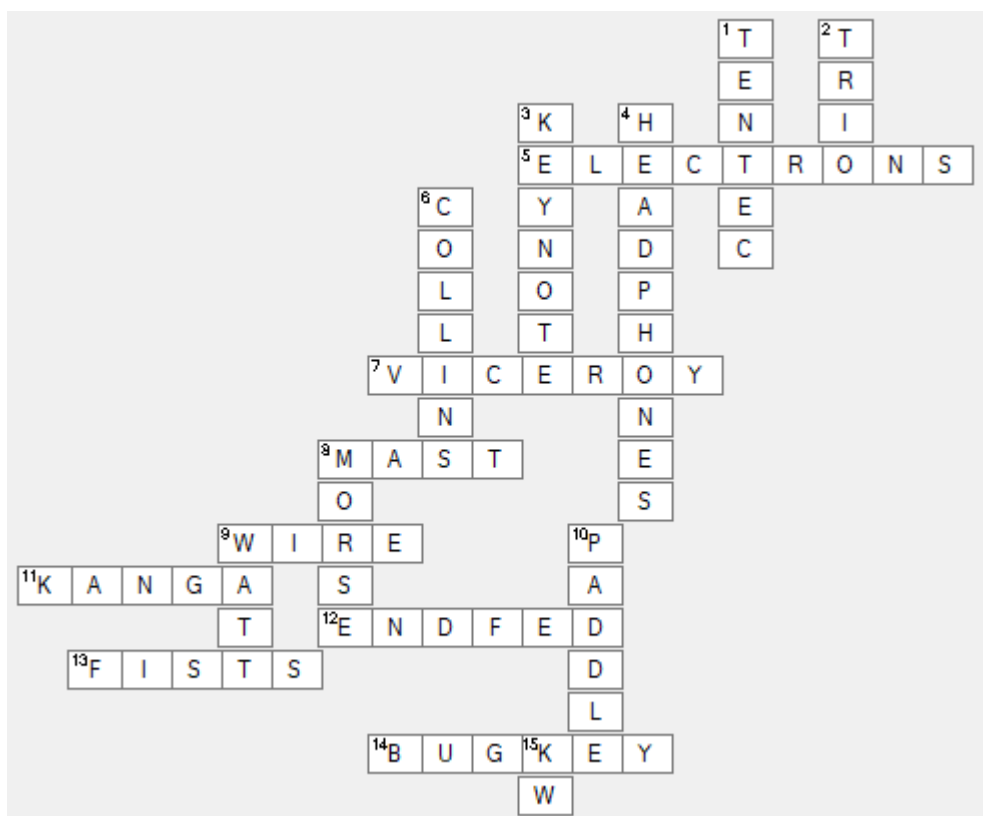
David G4YVM F15868

New Members

Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.
Jun	JG7AJE	#22872	Tyler	KM7BBA	#23016	Greg	N4ACE	#23026
Jaimin	VU2YLM	#22873	Roe	K3KDW	#23017	Daniel	KQ4WRV	#23027
Sam	JL3AYP	#22874	Jeff	AC3PD	#23018	Cambridge and District Amateur Radio Club (CDARC)	G2XV	#23100
David	2E0JLV	#22927	Phillip	KI5VPF	#23019	Brad	M7GNO	#23101
David	GWSWL83	#22929	Craig	W8CS	#23020	David	M7DLP	#23102
Wesley	KG6TSM	#23011	Eric	W7EV	#23021	Helmut	ON4AXW	#23103
Duane	N5GUS	#23012	James	K4OHW	#23022	Jacek	M0KYA	#23104
Bill	KS4CM	#23013	Munir	N3PQ	#23023	Oli	F5RDS	#23105
Bob	AA1HM	#23014	Ron	K9ID	#23024	Craig	ZL3ADX	#23106
Nathan	WR3G	#23015	Thomas	NK3F	#23025			

Awards

Name	Callsign	Member	Awards
Jean	F6JOE	#16177	Platinum
Nigel	M0NGN	#19270	Millionaire 6 Million Endorsement



Word Search Crossword 2025: Solution

Note: We have accepted “JUNKER” as an alternative answer to 14 Across.

Across

5. Without these tiny fellows we don't communicate
7. The first SSB rig in the UK
8. Ships had them, so do many amateurs. Aerials need them, maybe they tilt.
9. Oddly for wireless we use a lot of this
11. Australian kits? No, British, so hop to it.
12. Aerial with no middle
13. Probably the best CW club in the world
14. Type of key that does what it says if used badly.

Down

1. Nine is insufficient, but eleven shortened technicians is too many
2. Kenwood's name came in threes in the 80s.
3. Club activities newsletter
4. Wear these if you need better ears
6. Lewis acted a professional in the 70s, Arthur made a radio
8. An inventor and a modulation type
9. Measure of power, pardon?
10. Many use one of these to save their wrists badly
15. A thousand Watts, or a radio maker

Word Search Crossword 2025: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Werner DL6NAN	Crossword with letters from calls - a very good idea. I had big fun to solve the puzzle!
Simon G0FOZ	A fun crossword puzzle with a CW QSO twist. Thanks - enjoyed that :-) 73 Simon
Chris G3XVL	The crossword got the old grey matter working a bit. I found it hard to find a call with the letter W included but found one in the end Good fun, 73 Chris
Keith G4TJE	Enjoyed doing the crossword and managed to complete them all. Will certainly do another one in the future.
Pete M5ABN	Super activity and enjoyed very much, just hope the answers are correct Hi. Vy 73 de Pete M5ABN #6423
Alan MW0BGL	Please find attached my entry for the 2025 Crossword activity. Hopefully it's ok to submit it in this format which I also hope makes sense. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that all entries are valid and correct. I really enjoyed this activity and personally would welcome similar such activities in the future. Vy 73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507

Word Search Crossword 2025: Results

Callsign	Position	Points (Max. 17)	Final QSO
M5ABN	1	17	05 May 2025
G0FOZ	2	17	13 May 2025
G3XVL	3	17	17 May 2025
MW0BGL	4	17	25 May 2025
G4TJE	5	17	18 June 2025
DL6NAN	6	16	11 June 2025

Mechanical Key 24 Hour Sprint – June 2025: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Simon G0FOZ	Well it overlapped with the Sunday ladder so why not try a mechanical sprint. All but one QSO was using a HiMound BK100 bug; I switched to an old Kent straight key for one QSO to avoid having to adjust the bug or sound too lopsided at a slower pace :-) 73 Simon
Alan MW0BGL	Here is my log for yesterday's Mechanical Key 24 hour sprint. Many of the entries were obtained during yesterday's ladder sessions. All of them were obtained in very poor band conditions. Fingers crossed for better conditions in the Straight Key 24 hour sprint tomorrow. 73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Norbert ON4ANE	Hello David, my log for this activity! 73 de Norbert ON4ANE

Mechanical Key 24 Hour Sprint - June 2025: Results

Callsign	Position	Points
MW0BGL	1	20
ON4ANE	2	15
G0FOZ	3	10
G3XVL	4	5

Straight Key 24 Hour Sprint - June 2025: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Alan MW0BGL	Attached is my submission for Tuesday's Straight Key 24 hour sprint. Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Norbert ON4ANE	Hello David, just a few qso possible after returning home from QRL! 73 de Norbert ON4ANE

Straight Key 24 Hour Sprint - June 2025: Results

Callsign	Position	Points
IU0AHC	1	20
MW0BGL	2	17
ON4ANE	3	4

Ladder June 2025: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Jean-Jacques F5IJO	Hi all, A meagre log for Fists, been busy with TM13REF... Jean-Jacques - F5IJO FISTS#17008 LICW#5902
Jean F6JOE	Good fun ! 73 Jean F6JOE - 16177
Simon G0FOZ	The 4th Sunday of the month was hard going, conditions not great coupled with contest QRM and also some self-inflicted QRM. Great to work the FISTS persisting through the conditions and putting up with my bug sending :-) 73 Simon
Chris G3XVL	My June log. Conditions on the 22nd session very poor but did manage to work a few. 73 Chris
Keith G4TJE	Poor conditions and contests on 40 mtrs put pay to too much operating this month. Hopefully better next month.
John G4YTJ	40m was a struggle on 22nd. It was only in the last 15 minutes that RBN reports of less than 250 miles were coming in. I lost Simon G0FOZ and Alan MW0BGL to deep QSB but partly redeemed myself by getting a full QSO with Simon right at the end of the session.
Steve M0SHM	Really poor conditions on the last Sunday but made a few contacts.
Pete M5ABN	Log for June, as always good fun. Vy73 Pete M5ABN
Alan M7TSM	Thanks for the QSOs.
Alan MW0BGL	Please find attached my ladder entry for this month. I found band conditions were especially bad on the 22nd. Contest QRM was also prevalent, especially on 40 metres. Vy 73, de Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my ladder log. Tnx and 73 de Erkki OH7QR
Norbert ON4ANE	Hello David, hereby my log for this month. condx agn poor in the afternoon! 73 de Norbert ON4ANE

Ladder June 2025: Results

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
M5ABN	1	1	-	444	78	63	72	78	67	86
G3XVL	2	2	-	401	69	83	63	52	69	65
MW0BGL	3	3	-	360	54	65	72	51	63	55
ON4ANE	4	4	-	329	52	63	54	57	54	49
M0PBZ	5	5	-	302	49	57	60	33	51	52
G0FOZ	6	6	-	269	6	39	59	45	49	71
M0SHM	7	7	-	210	33	45	36	33	36	27
G4YTJ	8	9	↑	193	33	18	46	42	18	36
MM0UMH	9	10	↑	173	38	62		29	22	22
G3ZRJ	10	8	↓	168	35	69	64			
M7TSM	11	12	↑	157	22	21	27	33	33	21
OH7QR	12	13	↑	145	23	39	18	28	24	13
2E0DPH	13	11	↓	137	42	63	32			
F6JOE	14	14	-	127	27	12	33	21	18	16
G4TJE	15	16	↑	99	16	26	33	8	8	8
PA0SIM	16	15	↓	96	30	27	24		15	
G0DFC	17	17	-	90	42	30	18			
G4TPJ	18	18	-	66	33	9	24			
G4DNP	19	19	-	59	19	12	10	6	12	
G4YTK	20	20	-	45	9	21	3	6	6	
DL6NAN	21	-	↑	37						37
G4KKU	22	22	-	36	6		6	18		6
G0JHK	23	21	↓	34	34					
SQ9S	24	23	↓	28	28					
M0MCL	25	24	↓	24	24					
G0UBE	26	25	↓	22			22			
M0KBJ	27	26	↓	19		19				
OH2BN	28	28	-	18					12	6
DL3GJ	29	27	↓	17		1			16	
G3PCL	30	29	↓	9				3	6	
F5IJO	31	30	↓	6		3	3			
EI2KA	32	31	↓	3		3				
M0YRU	=33	=32	↓	1		1				
M7YRU	=33	=32	↓	1		1				

Upcoming Events

July 2025

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Tue 01 Jul		EuCW Snakes & Ladders summer/autumn season starts	24 hours each day UTC
Tue 01 Jul		ICWC Top 9 Quarter 3 season starts	24 hours each day UTC
Sun 27 Jul		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC

August 2025

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 10 Aug		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
Sat 16 Aug		FISTS Straight Key 24 Hour Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 24 Aug		FISTS Mechanical Key 24 Hour Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 24 Aug		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
Sun 31 Aug		FISTS Bug Key 24 Hour Sprint	0000-2359 UTC

September 2025

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Mon 08 Sep	Mon 15 Sep	FISTS Mechanical Key Week	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 14 Sep		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
Sat 20 Sep		FISTS Bug Key 24 Hour Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 28 Sep		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
