



Greetings dear FISTS



Before I forget...a new event.

Let's have an **Exchange Your Gift Week (EYGW)** for the week just after Christmas this year. It will start at 0001Z 27th December 2020 and finish 2359z 3rd January 2021. Dec 27th 0001Z to Jan 3rd 2359Z. Times will be on the Cardinals to Cardinals +1, so 0000 – 0100, 0300 – 0400, 0600-0700, 0900-1000 etc etc. Obviously, you can call CQ EYGW anytime you like, but those times should centre us.

As for freqs, can we start to occupy the **upper** end of the CW portion? This is 3560 – 3570, 7030 – 7040, 14060 – 14070, 18085 – 18095, 21060 – 21070, 24905 – 24915, 28060 – 28070. I think that's right...

I am suggesting this at the request of a ECW request because the upper edges are being eroded by SSB and (especially) data. Unless we creep up and re-occupy the band edges we will lose them so let's spread ourselves away from the usual FISTS CoA and into the UPPER 10Kc of band. I'm as guilty as the next fists, so I will need to try to remember as well!

Exchange...RST plus a chat about the best / biggest / most radio appropriate gift/s you received this year.

Soapbox only, no logs (unless Graham rustles something up, which I have asked him to because it is HIS Christmas too...but watch for emails.)

Members

I worked a few members this month which has been good when I could get on air. Im afraid what with Bantenna, Tesco and my Church activities I have never been busier. I cant believe how busy people with normal jobs can be...give me airline flying anyday! Sadly, those days are gone so busy it i!!

Anyway, Mr Dixon, GOAYD sent me a few photos: he has a nice G3TSO 5 band rig from the 80s that has found its way into his shack and also a huge 80-10m rig as shown. Of particular interest is the mcHF rig he has bought - the photo does not do it justice but google MONKA and you'll find it. mcHF is a stunning open source home brew rig and Dave's looks very nice in the flesh. He cant wait to really get it out and into full use but best wait till the rain stops!





Thanks to Dave for the pictures.

This time round New to the 2020 Ladder this month is Andy GOLLX, pictured below next to another four chaps you might recognise. Andy is an ex RO and says this on his QRZ page:

Several years before I got my Amateur Radio license, I was a student at Grimsby College of Technology, from where I graduated with the Marine Radiotelecommunications General Certificate (MRGC) and with this, I was fortunate to become a Radio Officer at the UK's long-range land-based ship-to-shore radio station: Portishead Radio (GKA) .. I worked at GKA thru 1980/81.







Images of the Station House at Portishead Radio (GKA)

Whilst it was a fantastic opportunity and experience working at GKA, it was to go to sea as a Radio Officer that I had spent over 3 years at college in order to achieve the MRGC. Having developed a number of contacts within shipping company offices within the UK, I was offered the chance of going to sea. I spent 6 years as Radio Officer working on oil tankers and bulk carriers, seeing much of the world in the process. One of the ships I worked on is shown below .. it's one of my favourite ship photographs.



Andy, welcome to the FISTS world!

Mechanical Key Week

This was well attended and we had 17 logs plus a log from Graham as a club station. I'm glad it was well attended and you all seemed to enjoy it. Needless to say it will happen again!!

I think that's all for this month, next time round will be a new year so all I say now is Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. I hope to work you in the EYGW event or just on the bands! Thanks for all your input to this newsletter – I really like your emails and photos. Do please keep 'em coming!

Pip pip

David

G4YVM

Comments for Ladder November 2020

Entrant	Comments
Nils DL3HR	08. Nov: never ever the CONDS have been so bad - GM0EUL es MI0WWB, I lost ur Signals in QSB totally, sri! 22. Nov: MW0BGL, I heard ur Signal but can't read it anymore after got ur Callsign, sri! To all the other FISTS: tnx fer QSO, hpe cu agn in December, vy 73!
Ivan G0BON	2nd session was a delight, but last session was tough going with heavy QSB. Thanks to all for the friendly QSO's once again.
Richard G0ILN	22nd of November evening session was really strange. Conditions were terrible but I think I had the best mix of call signs ever and only one was not a Fists member! G,GM,GW,GU,M,MX,I,DL,SM,HA,EA! Richard G0ILN
Andy G0LLX	I didn't get to play long, but enjoyed it :)
Peter G3JRH	Both Sundays evening sessions 80M was noisy and signals not too strong.. Peter G3JRH
Chris G3XVL	Time.... where has it gone and where is it going ?
Robin G4DNP	Good to hear so much activity and conditions definitely improving. Looking forward to next month. 73s Robin
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for November Ladder gud fun as usual & the MKD helped hi. but I'm afraid the band condx were not at their best, lots QSB & QRM but I made it in spite of that Hi. Mni tnx to the organizers of this great event. Keep Safe 73 Peter
Richard G4TPJ	Always good fun - good cw practice.
Ray G4XUZ	Good fun as always. These events provide a real incentive to get on the radio more. 73, Ray G4XUZ.
John G4YTJ	22nd was a struggle. Lost a couple of QSOs part way through but got Ivan G0BON right at the end.
Ray M0DHP	First time in the Ladder for quite a while. Really enjoyed it, especially my QSO with M7HRY. Need to get my 80m antenna up for next month.
Paul M0GSX	Hi To All, 08 Nov: Condx very gud throughout the 2 hours, but right at the very end of the session, the skip went very long on 80M. 22 Nov: Condx were a little patchy with some QSB on some sigs but not all but great code from all again. Hope everyone's keeping well at FISTS HQ. Please find attached my Log for November 2020 Ladder. 2 Evening Sessions again with a combined latter for the MKD Days. Great to hear the bands full of FISTS members, again, the standard of the code from all is very good again. Condx for me were a little better in the later session of the month with less QSB than the first session with good signals from Inter G. Thanks again to all of the Ladder participants C U all Next month.. 73 Paul M0GSX #17642..
Steve M0SHM	Great time as always. Deep QSB during afternoon.
Mark M0UZE	Thanks and keep safe

Pete M5ABN	Thanks to all for coming on air for the ladder and other fists activities. Wishing you all a very Happy Xmas and a great 2021. Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Will MI0WWB	A few interruptions in the afternoon, but the evening was good fun.
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Please find attached my ladder log. Conditions were poor on 22nd, got only 3 QSOs. All the best and stay safe. 73 Erkki fists 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	22/11/2020 lots of QRM 73 DE Norbert ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	Condx to UK not very good, but still good enough for some ladder QSO's. DL and I made better sigs HI. 73 es cu Jan PA0SIM
Cees PA0VLD	Ladders 73 pa0vld Cees
Joop PG4I	Thanks for QSOs! 73 de Jo PG4I

Results for Ladder November 2020

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
G0ILN	1	1	-	965	27	80	86	92	87	92	97	102	105	98	99
M5ABN	2	3	↑	676	36	55	66	57	62	55	46	71	81	78	69
G4LHI	3	2	↓	674	55	54	72	73	62	57	44	64	64	63	66
G0BON	4	5	↑	619		27	29	80	78		78	58	92	90	87
M0PBZ	5	4	↓	538	36	33	58	55	65	57	80	75	79		
M0GSX	6	6	-	483		37	57	35	51	46	46	51	57	52	51
G4IZZ	7	7	-	452		52	63	56	48	51	42	36	27	55	22
MW0BGL	8	8	-	421		40	52	45	24	14	36	54	54	51	51
G4TPJ	9	9	-	416	21	15	60	30	39	32	15	33	45	60	66
G3JRH	10	10	-	391	12	27	37	31	36	43	20	40	51	46	48
DL3HR	11	11	-	312	16	36	39	21	27	17	34	31	30	36	25
PG4I	12	12	-	305			40	6	36	48	19	64	40	27	25
2E0DPH	13	14	↑	299	24	16	45	41	39	18	15		15	28	58
OH7QR	14	13	↓	291	28	25	31	22	18	35	40	20	19	26	27
G4XUZ	15	17	↑	258	9	18	30		21	15	30	33	39	27	36
G3XVL	16	16	-	255	24	27	16	28	45	12	9	15	33	24	22
MI0WWB	17	19	↑	243	10	36		28	24	18	30	1	22	34	40
G0JHK	18	18	-	239			21			33	25	43	30	60	27
G3ZRJ	19	15	↓	236	3	1	45	14	37		15		64	57	
ON4ANE	20	22	↑	171				12	12	9	21	15	30	36	36
G4LRG	21	20	↓	154	24	27	43		60						
G4CGU	22	21	↓	148					12	12	29	30	31	34	
M0DRK	23	23	-	132		6	15	18	6	12	12	9		27	27
PA0SIM	24	24	-	108								18	27	36	27
G0DFC	25	28	↑	85		21	12		24	3					25
G4YTJ	26	27	↑	82						4	9	9	15	24	21
G0OEY	27	25	↓	73	20	12	9	3	22	4	3				
G3ZOD	28	26	↓	66					3	21	21	6	12		3
G5VZ	29	35	↑	64									25	14	25
M0UZE	30	30	-	60	3			6	6	6	9	6	6	9	9
G4DNP	31	34	↑	57		4			7	15	3	1	6	9	12
G0TLU	32	=32	-	55			12	15	3	10	6				9
G4RHR	33	29	↓	52						10		9	33		
M0SHM	34	=36	↑	51							3		12	21	15
G7WHI	35	31	↓	49	4				33	12					
IW2JJS	36	=32	↓	48	7	4	13			14		8			2
PA0VLD	37	44	↑	38										16	22
OH2BN	=38	=36	↓	36	9	9		6	9	3					
SQ9S	=38	=36	↓	36						3			10	23	
G0TMT	40	39	↓	30										30	
GM0EPO	=41	=40	↓	24			15	9							
M0DHP	=41	42	↑	24		6								15	3

M0ILR	=41	=40	↓	24								24		
DL3HAE	44	43	↓	18						18				
G0LLX	=45	-	↑	12										12
G4TGJ	=45	45	-	12			12							
G0DDX	=47	=46	↓	9			9							
OZ8AGB	=47	=46	↓	9			6					3		
SV2BBK	=47	=46	↓	9	2	3	4							
LB5DI	50	=49	↓	6									3	3
M0TEU	51	=49	↓	3					3					
MX5IPX*				42						9	12	18		3

* Check log

Comments for Mechanical Key Days 2020

Entrant	Comments
Phil 2E0DPH	Here is my log for the MKD. A good fun week. Thanks to all those I managed to work. Stay safe. 73 Phil
Kai DL1AH	Hi all, this is my log-entry for FISTS MKD. I achieved 24 points. All contacts were made using an old straight key by 'ALLEI' which I bought recently on eBay for 15 Euros. It was in no good conditions but some cleaning helped and now it works well. Best regards, 73 Kai DL1AH' FISTS #16933
Chris G3XVL	Amplidan SK and some on Vibroplex Lightning bug key.
Robin G4DNP	Another enjoyable activity and made some new contacts. Thanks to organisers. Vy 73s Robin
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for MKD gud fun as usual & the Ladder Helped hi. but I'm afraid the band condx were not at their best, lots QSB & QRM but I made it in spite of that Hi. Mni tnx to the organizers of this great event. Keep Safe 73 Peter
Ray G4XUZ	MKD log attached. I often use SK anyway, but it's great to have a dedicated period for it. 73, Ray G4XUZ.
Martin IK2RMZ	Nice event. I enjoyed it a lot. Several times I just couldn't help but extend the chats and forget about the competitive element of the event. There are so many nice op willing to ragchew. A special thanks to UK operators for not neglecting 20m in order to let continental operators to feel at home in FISTS.
Paul M0GSX	Please find attached my entry for MKD Days 2020. Missed the first day of the activity, but had some very nice QSO's with all who took part, lovely to hear the different 'fists' from everyone, with a wide range of different Mechanical keys, only had a couple of weeks practice with my new Bug key, hope the code was ok !!! Condx on the whole were very good from hear in the West Midlands, my Antennas are not too sensitive but managed quite well with them. The 20/11/202 12:00 - 13:00 Session on 40M was particularly very good with better Signals than of late on 40M. Thanks again to all at FISTS who do a wonderful job for us sorting and processing all the logs for us all.. 73
Mark M0UZE	Thanks and keep safe
Pete M5ABN	Many thanks to all for the Straight Key QSOs. I apologise for the standard of sending, I must get the Swedish key out a bit more often Hi. Stay safe & have a great Xmas & New Year. Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Here comes my MKD Log. I liked the activity, hope it will come again next year. Many thanks and stay safe. 73 Erkki OH7QR fists 8318
Cees PA0VLD	Mechanical Key Days 73 pa0vld Cees

Results for Mechanical Key Days 2020

Callsign	Position	Points
G4LHI	1	297
M0GSX	2	174
M5ABN	3	141
2E0DPH	4	139
IK2RMZ	5	129
MW0BGL	6	117
OH7QR	7	77
G4XUZ	8	67
G0LLX	9	46
G3XVL	10	35
PA0VLD	11	34
M0UZE	12	27
G4EOG	13	24
G4DNP	14	22
DL1AH	=15	20
G0JHK	=15	20
G3ZOD	17	3
MX5IPX*		3

* Check log

Upcoming Events

December 2020

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 13 Dec		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 27 Dec		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 27 Dec	Sun 3 Jan 2021	EYGW	Cardinals to Cardinals +1

January 2021

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Fri 01 Jan		EuCW Snakes & Ladders winter/spring season starts	0000 UTC
Sun 10 Jan		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 24 Jan		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

February 2021

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 14 Feb		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 28 Feb		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
