



Greetings Dear FISTS and welcome to this latest issue of BP.

Firstly, an apology for the general lack of my own operating reports this time – the building works we are having done following our fire have been extensive. The actual fire damage was thankfully limited to one room but the smoke managed to permeate every room in the house which means we have to have every room cleaned, decorated and new fittings and furnishings everywhere. This is a blessing I suppose as it means the house will look beautiful upon completion but during the task it's a nightmare. Most of my radios are boxed up but dust still gets in - the long term damage might be great but I do my best to limit it. I have also re-acquired a new radio (its an old radio but had an interesting journey.) which I haven't even unboxed yet. As I said to the friend who sold it to me, it might be a box of bricks for all I know...his answer? "expensive bricks". More anon.

I did manage to get out wiv me whippets and the little Elecraft KX2 though and had a few nice if short QSO. The recent CME that hve hit earth helped, when they weren't being utterly destructive of course.

I have been receiving excited reports from Dave, GOAYD about the efforts with his new uSDR and I have to say as far as value for money goes it seems hard to fault these radios. Currently they are available for about £120 which makes them amazing. Dave says he gets about two weeks of charge out of the internal battery which is excellent. Im sure that's not being used 8 hours a day every day but if your holiday operating is like mine – 1 or 2 QSO a day, if that - then that charge is good enough to chuck the rig in the suitcase and nowt else! I like it. Keith GOHKC also likes it and is sorely tempted. If we all go to bed tonight and think the same thing – buy it Keith!!! - I reckon he will have it before long.

Has anyone else tried these radios? uSDR / uSDX. Google is your friend.

Just reading the notes from the SK and MK activities it is clear that these are very popular activities much enjoyed by participants. It seems to me to that the use of a SK or MK requires more involvement from the user, which enhances the joy. I believe this is so of Morse code as a whole though - it is simply more satisfying than other modes and the least of all must be the dreaded (in my mind) FT8 etc. It always slightly saddens me when I see brand new members to our hobby asking what radios they require etc because they all seem to go down the same rabbit hole..."how do I connect my computer to get good QSO?". I always point out the only cable needed to be connected is the morse key...but of course, as newcomers today they haven't got a clue what I am talking about. I worry about the future of the hobby not because of what we are doing within it but because of how we train newcomers.

A part of me firmly believes that new comers to amateur radio should have to build their first radios and use ONLY Morse code. But that makes me a total dinosaur I am told, and I need to get with it and see that computers are the way to go. Sadly I am also told that the hobby is dying. Coincidence?

Meanwhile, FISTS carries the torch!

I think we need a couple of activities to keep us going through the winter so I am running the EYGW again this year as it seemed a bit of fun and well supported last time round. Exchange Your Gift Week isn't a swapshop but a simple time to get on air and tell each other what gifts or trinkets Santa left you this time round.

| EXCHANGE YOUR GIFTS WEEK 2021 | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| DESCRIPTION | A simple get together on air with the express intention of telling tall tales of all your gifts!! New rig? New key? Pair of socks?? No points, no contest mode. |
| DATES and TIMES | December 25 th to December 31 st . All day, every day, no set times. |
| FREQUENCIES | Any FISTS frequency. As this is not a contest or points awarding activity I feel we can legitimately use ANY of our amateur bands. Some ops love certain bands and we do ignore them, so lets have a crack. |
| LOGS and COMMENTS | Logs and comments welcome to activities@fists.co.uk . |

Another event which was enjoyed by those who took part was the 2m Chronophage. I anticipate that again for the new year - lets plan it now and then it's sorted!! So, what do you think of this?

| 2M CHRONOPHAGE 2022 | |
|----------------------------|--|
| DESCRIPTION | Named after the eponymous clock in Cambridge, the chronophage is a fun event on 2m CW. Most folks these days have only vertical antennas, so try both polarisations if you have the choice! No points, no contest mode. |
| | Licence power limits. |
| DATES and TIMES | February 27 th to March 6 th Sunday. Tuesday. Thursday. Saturday. NB the Tuesday is planned to coincide with the UKAC contest 1 st March 2000 – 2230Z. This is intentional to introduce people to it and to maximise chances of a QSO All day each day. |
| FREQUENCIES | 2m, 144.050 or 144.058. During UKAC it will be all over the band. |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| LOGS and COMMENTS | Logs and comments welcome to activities@fists.co.uk ...let's have some VHF fun. |
|----------------------|---|

Does anyone fancy a portable activity next year?

I think that's me done. Please let me have your thoughts and ideas for activities you'd like set up.

Pip pip

David G4YVM. F15868

Comments for Straight Key Week 2021

| Entrant | Comments |
|-------------|--|
| Greg DL3GJ | My first entry ever. Hope for more next year :-) 73 de Greg DL3GJ |
| Andy G0LLX | Dear FISTS, Please find attached log for the SKW for call sign G0LLX. I really enjoyed the week, which for me is the best and most enjoyable activity within the FISTS calendar. I got some good practice with my new Junkers hand key and had some proper CW QSO's along the way. I enjoyed CQ'ing as for a change, it produced many responses and as you'll see from my log, not all members of FISTS. Many thanks, Andy / G0LLX / FISTS 20378 |
| Chris G3XVL | I didn't get on for many of the slots but was good fun when did. |
| Robin G4DNP | Operating from Pescara, Central Italy and was on air for last 3 days of SKW. Pleased to be able to show my support for these activities. vy best 73s, Robin I/G4DNP |
| Peter G4LHI | G4LHI Claim for SKWeek 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 | Condx iffy and time limited, but a very enjoyable week, and great practice on the pump. 73, Ray G4XUZ |
| Pete M5ABN | Enjoyed SKW very much, a chance to dust off my Swedish Pump. Family commitments curtailed my available time in the shack though. Stay safe, Vy 73 Pete M5ABN |
| Erkki OH7QR | Hello David, the SKW 2021 was enjoyable. I met some new fists members and noticed that I could work UK on 40M after 1500 UTC. Many thanks and 73 de Erkki OH7QR nr 8318 |

Results for Straight Key Week 2021

| Callsign | Posn | Points |
|----------|------|--------|
| G4LHI | 1 | 165 |
| OH7QR | 2 | 69 |
| MW0BGL | 3 | 59 |
| G0LLX | 4 | 48 |
| M5ABN | 5 | 46 |
| G4XUZ | 6 | 43 |
| G3XIZ | 7 | 39 |
| G3XVL | 8 | 21 |
| DL3GJ | 9 | 15 |
| G4DNP | 10 | 1 |

Comments for Mechanical Key Days November 2021

| Entrant | Comments |
|-------------|--|
| Greg DL3GJ | Only one QSO on November 1st. Not so good conditions, family duties.... 73 de Greg DL3GJ |
| Chris G3XIZ | GM OM, Here attached is my entry for the November 1st MKD. I was using my WT-8A key for all the above contacts. 73 Chris G3XIZ |
| Chris G3XVL | This is becoming my favourite event. I like the idea that it is an all day event, no specific times involved. |
| Peter G4LHI | G4LHI Claim for November MKD 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 |
| Paul M0GSX | Hi To All At Fists, Hope everyone's well at FISTS HQ, Please find attached my November 1st MKD Log for M0GSX. Band conditions especially on 40M were very good with very strong signals and little QSB from here in the West Midlands, thanks to all that took part in MKD, it was a pleasure to hear so many FISTS without keyers switched on. I switched between using my Begali HST Cootie and my Vibroplex Bug for the whole of the activity. The last two contacts were on 80M in the evening, good signals here the strongest I've received Alan (MW0BGL) for our 30 Minute QSO. And always a pleasure to work so many members a couple of new ones for me also. Paul M0GSX #17642 |
| Erkki OH7QR | Hello David, This month better luck. More stations on band and condx were good. Tnx. 73 Erkki OH7QR 8318 |

Results for Mechanical Key Days November 2021

| Callsign | Position | Points |
|----------|----------|--------|
| G4LHI | 1 | 43 |
| M0GSX | 2 | 31 |
| OH7QR | 3 | 17 |
| G3XVL | 4 | 16 |
| G3XIZ | 5 | 14 |
| G3GMS | 6 | 12 |
| DL3GJ | 7 | 1 |

Comments for Ladder October 2021

| Entrant | Comments |
|----------------|--|
| Phil 2E0DPH | I found condx better this month, makes a pleasant change from the noise we now have to deal with on HF. Many thanks to all again. 73 Phil |
| Greg DL3GJ | Here is my log for October Ladder. Just a few QSOs - as always hope for more next month! 73 de Greg DL3GJ |
| Richard G0ILN | Condx seem to be all over the place! but good fun as usual. Richard G0ILN. |
| Peter G3JRH | Not a lot of operating time.. Peter G3JRH |
| Chris G3XVL | 40m Excellent condx again. |
| Graham G3ZOD | Conditions on 40m are definitely improving! 73 de Graham G3ZOD |
| Robin G4DNP | As always, many thanks to MT for these activities, best 73s Robin |
| Peter G4LHI | G4LHI Claim for OCT ladder but Im 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 |
| John G4LRG | Many thanks to all for the points. |
| Ray G4XUZ | Difficult condx, but good fun as always. 73, Ray G4XUZ. |
| John G4YTJ | I think 10th October was my best day on the ladder so far. Just as well considering my dismal score of zero in September. Thank you everyone that I worked that day. I couldn't get on the air for the 24th - away visiting relatives, Hopefully I'll be on all four sessions in November, but the hour difference between BST and UTC means the start of the sessions clashes with mealtimes, so I may be a few minutes late! |
| Bela HA2ZB | This month I could spend only 1,5 hours in total for the Ladder, unfortunately. Propagation seems to be improving from Central Eu to the UK especially on 40 and 80 meter bands. Thank you for the contest! Great activity as always! |
| Gabor M0LPZ | I am quite happy with this month's activity. Got some good distances. I believe this is my best result so far. Thank you all! 73 de Gabor |
| Kevin M0MCL | Good morning, Please see attached my log for October's Ladder. Thanks for the mention in Brasspounder, was a nice surprise to see my QRZ photos published! 73, Kevin M0MCL |
| Ryan M0RSU | Back on the ladder after the chaos of moving QTH. |
| Steve M0SHM | Short of time this month but managed a couple of contacts. |
| Pete M5ABN | Log for October, thanks for all the points & looking forward to November, stay safe. Vy 73 Pete M5ABN |
| Erkki OH7QR | Hello David, here comes my log for Oct. Conditions are becoming better, Take care and stay safe. 73 Erkki OH7QR 8318 |
| Norbert ON4ANE | Condx sometimes quite strange on 80m, but still good fun 73 de Norbert ON4ANE |

| | |
|------------|---|
| Jan PA0SIM | October 24th in the afternoon only 40m possible. On 20m heard Vanni I5ECW very weak and no UK. On 80m very weak UK stns. 73 Jan PA0SIM |
| Adam SQ9S | Tnx for all QSOs in FISTS Ladder October 2021. Best 73 Adam SQ9S #20019 |

Results for Ladder October 2021

| Callsign | Posn | Prev | Move | Total | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|----------|------|------|------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| G0ILN | 1 | 1 | - | 913 | 67 | 88 | 106 | 113 | 104 | 91 | 84 | 99 | 89 | 72 |
| G4LRG | 2 | 2 | - | 776 | 85 | 73 | 96 | 90 | 51 | 65 | 67 | 75 | 83 | 91 |
| G4LHI | 3 | 4 | ↑ | 717 | 79 | 69 | 59 | 73 | 67 | 63 | 76 | 74 | 82 | 75 |
| G0BON | 4 | 3 | ↓ | 678 | 70 | 96 | 106 | 92 | 78 | 87 | 66 | 83 | | |
| M5ABN | 5 | 5 | - | 655 | 51 | 68 | 76 | 77 | 70 | 65 | 67 | 61 | 51 | 69 |
| M0GSX | 6 | 6 | - | 442 | 30 | 57 | 55 | 62 | 55 | 53 | 33 | 69 | 28 | |
| G3XVL | 7 | 8 | ↑ | 373 | 51 | 47 | 40 | 36 | 21 | 9 | 18 | 48 | 50 | 53 |
| 2E0DPH | 8 | 9 | ↑ | 345 | 57 | 51 | 30 | 64 | 36 | 12 | | 12 | 38 | 45 |
| G4TPJ | 9 | 7 | ↓ | 326 | 48 | 60 | 54 | 59 | 39 | | | 57 | 9 | |
| G3ZRJ | 10 | 10 | - | 292 | 45 | | | 36 | 32 | 32 | 52 | 77 | 18 | |
| G0JHK | 11 | 15 | ↑ | 285 | 48 | 19 | 17 | 45 | 49 | | 15 | 15 | 21 | 56 |
| MW0BGL | =12 | =13 | ↑ | 276 | 19 | 24 | 42 | 38 | | 3 | 30 | 36 | 39 | 45 |
| ON4ANE | =12 | 12 | - | 276 | 12 | 19 | 25 | 30 | 16 | 24 | 36 | 39 | 33 | 42 |
| DL3HR | 14 | 11 | ↓ | 256 | 42 | 42 | 49 | 37 | 28 | 42 | 16 | | | |
| OH7QR | 15 | =13 | ↓ | 255 | 24 | 23 | 21 | 17 | 25 | 19 | 29 | 25 | 48 | 24 |
| G3JRH | 16 | 18 | ↑ | 254 | | | 39 | 51 | 43 | 24 | 24 | 16 | 15 | 42 |
| G5VZ | 17 | 16 | ↓ | 250 | 40 | 38 | 15 | 3 | 32 | 36 | 18 | 28 | 13 | 27 |
| G4XUZ | 18 | 17 | ↓ | 238 | 18 | 21 | 38 | 29 | 39 | 12 | 24 | 33 | | 24 |
| PA0SIM | 19 | 19 | - | 222 | 21 | | 30 | 12 | 21 | 24 | 27 | 33 | 18 | 36 |
| G4YTJ | 20 | 20 | - | 202 | 15 | 25 | 24 | 24 | 27 | 15 | 12 | 30 | | 30 |
| G0DFC | 21 | 23 | ↑ | 155 | | 12 | 38 | 35 | | 24 | | | 24 | 22 |
| M0SHM | 22 | 21 | ↓ | 144 | 30 | 12 | 9 | 18 | 12 | 12 | 9 | 21 | 15 | 6 |
| MI0WWB | 23 | 22 | ↓ | 136 | 33 | 24 | 58 | 21 | | | | | | |
| M0DRK | 24 | 25 | ↑ | 123 | 21 | 12 | 15 | 27 | 21 | 12 | | | | 15 |
| SQ9S | 25 | 26 | ↑ | 115 | 1 | 15 | 20 | 15 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 21 | 12 | 8 |
| M0RSU | 26 | 27 | ↑ | 111 | 26 | 33 | 24 | | | | | | | 28 |
| G7WHI | 27 | 24 | ↓ | 109 | | 48 | | 52 | | 9 | | | | |
| HA2ZB | 28 | 28 | - | 88 | | 14 | 27 | | 3 | 11 | 9 | 10 | | 14 |
| G3ZOD | 29 | 31 | ↑ | 66 | 6 | | 9 | 9 | 3 | | 6 | 12 | 6 | 15 |
| G4RHR | 30 | =32 | ↑ | 60 | | | | 27 | 21 | | | | | 12 |
| G4KLE | 31 | 29 | ↓ | 59 | | | 35 | 24 | | | | | | |
| PG4I | 32 | 30 | ↓ | 52 | 33 | 19 | | | | | | | | |
| G0LLX | 33 | =32 | ↓ | 48 | | | 6 | | 9 | 23 | | 10 | | |
| DL3GJ | 34 | 34 | - | 47 | | | | 32 | | 3 | | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| G4DNP | 35 | 36 | ↑ | 46 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 3 | | 3 | 3 | | 3 | 9 |
| M0LPZ | 36 | 38 | ↑ | 44 | | 3 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | 4 | 13 |
| G0TLU | 37 | 37 | - | 40 | | | 4 | 3 | 6 | | 12 | 6 | 3 | 6 |
| M0UZE | 38 | 35 | ↓ | 39 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | | | | |
| M0MCL | 39 | 40 | ↑ | 36 | | | | | | | | | 21 | 15 |
| IZ0ONL | 40 | 39 | ↓ | 29 | | | 29 | | | | | | | |
| LB5DI | 41 | 45 | ↑ | 20 | | | 5 | | | | | | | 15 |
| SA1CCQ | 42 | 41 | ↓ | 17 | 17 | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|---|----|----|----|---|--|----|----|--|--|---|
| PA0VLD | 43 | 42 | ↓ | 14 | 14 | | | | | | | | |
| IW2JJS | 44 | 43 | ↓ | 12 | 5 | | 3 | | | | | | 4 |
| G4TGJ | 45 | 44 | ↓ | 6 | 6 | | | | | | | | |
| 2E0HTZ | =46 | =46 | - | 4 | | | | | 4 | | | | |
| IK1VQO | =46 | =46 | - | 4 | | | 4 | | | | | | |
| OZ8AGB | 48 | 48 | - | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| GX0IPX* | | | | 45 | | | | | 18 | 27 | | | |
| MX5IPX* | | | | 15 | | 15 | | | | | | | |

* Check log

Upcoming Events

November 2021

| First day | Last day | Event | Times |
|------------|----------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sun 14 Nov | | FISTS Europe Ladder | 1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC |
| Sun 28 Nov | | FISTS Europe Ladder | 1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC |

December 2021

| First day | Last day | Event | Times |
|------------|----------|--|------------------------------|
| Wed 01 Dec | | FISTS Europe Mechanical Key Days | 0001-2359 UTC |
| Sun 12 Dec | | FISTS Europe Ladder | 1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC |
| Sun 26 Dec | | FISTS Europe Ladder | 1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC |