



Welcome to Flaming June!

I trust you are all having a good summer so far despite it being very cold at times. Having said that, unbelievably as I type this we have just had two or three days of very hot weather- here at YVM Towers we saw 29 degrees C which is pretty warm!

I am finding this sunspot cycle very interesting - in fact the most interesting since the 1980s I think, Cycle 21. I didn't know it then, as a very new amateur, quite how good that was but there we are! Anyway, back to 25...some days the bands are dead - totally devoid of action and signals at all, whilst at others the Dx particularly is pouring in. This last week - the first week in probably 2 that has shown life on the bands, I have worked several south American stations, Caribbean, and African countries that have never yet appeared in my logbook. I have China and several Japanese and other Asian countries too, again, many firsts. They might be 599 QSO but at least they *are* QSO and not digimodes, which I truly believe should not count for anything. Anyway, I hope you are enjoying the bands when you can.

Amateur skills can be useful

I was recently involved with a new antenna system at a local airfield where the comms quality was pretty poor is as much as the operators were finding range to the south was 5 miles at best and often less - and this from an airborne station remember!! I had often commented that the system needed looking at but no one did anything. One day I got a call and they asked for my advice, so I first checked the coax - it looked like nothing I have ever seen in 45 years of amateur experience, no code or marks on it at all. I said well, it's either very, very good, the likes of which is well beyond me (government, specialist comms or some such) or cheap rubbish and I honestly felt the latter more likely.

I then looked at the antenna, a commercial white stick which was up at about 50 feet.

Then the location - in the clear but shielded by very tall trees to the south.

My conclusions, of course, were that either the system was good but blocked, or rubbish...and I tended towards the latter. However, having been rather expensive to install, the system was trusted. In the end I agreed to make an antenna and install it at ground level - all my instincts told me that the current system was that bad. So we did this, I made

a vertical antenna and we lashed it to a bench leg below the existing mast and then tried it. Aircraft at 20 miles away at just 1000 feet could now talk to the tower with ease which rather proved my point. We erected the new antenna at a new location some ten feet from the ground and out of the way and that's that! Everyone's a winner!

Now they have asked me to provide a system which will record tower and fire frequencies and save them to a laptop. This is taxing me I must say, but is most intriguing and no doubt can be done.

I wonder if any readers have been involved with anything brought about by their amateur skills?

Royal Signals Activity

I am contriving an activity whereby you can win the copy of the RS book, Roger So Far which I have here. It's a good book and well worth the effort of winning - it's well worth buying too!!

The activity, whose rules will be finalised later, will be run later in the summer but will be a simple accumulator activity. The FISTS who works most RS members will win the book. There will be extra points for qso with GB100RSM (Royal Signals Museum) and G4RS ...the RSARS Garrison Radio Club Station both at Blandford Camp. There is a Royal Sigs net which I'm sure you could gate crash otherwise I shall leave it up to you to hunt them down (the GQRP freqs seem richly populated!). I like to think it will pose some additional fun.

Watch this space.

Royal Calls

Whilst on Royal things I wonder how you faired with your R callsign? I confess, I did not hear many which I felt was a shame and more than one person told me they weren't using it because they weren't royalists anyway which struck me as a ' nose off to spite the fizzog' attitude but each to his own. I set out to work 500 stations with mine during May but failed and only achieved 204. I'm still pleased with that and rattling on for the rest of June. Again, many of the QSO are 599 types but I don't mind. The overseas stations want the R callsign and the QSL card so that's fine by me (EQSL mostly)

Onto the tables then...here we go!

The Chadburn cup seems to be totally unsupported which is a great shame. I am a member of two clubs - one has zero interest and the other, the Pelican, has one other interested member Bob, G3ZNH but he had the temerity to move house and so that's taken all his time and energy. It's just not on!!

I reckon that's it for now.

I hope to hear you on air but if not, best 73 and have fun

David G4YVM

Awards

Name	Callsign	Member	Awards
Robert	AF5Z	#2035	Prefix
Larry	W7ZDX	#16485	Prefix
Alan	MW0BGL	#16507	Gold Century, Millionaire 4 Million Endorsement
Pedro	EA6BB	#18080	Millionaire 5 Million Endorsement, Spectrum 30m

New Members

Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.
David	KC5ZEJ	#22080	Billy	N5SE	#22086	Mike	G4SND	#22131
Doug	KE7DSH	#22081	Orrin	WN1Z	#22087	Steve	GSWL77	#22132
Don	VE3IDS	#22082	Guillermo	HK4KM	#22088	Brendan	VK3BAP	#22133
Ushesh	W6UDT	#22083	Bob	KN0T	#22089	Taff	GWSWL78	#22134
Steve	N7SE	#22084	David	KI5WWP	#22090	Jason	M7EOQ	#22135
Eric	KB3NSK	#22085	Jeff	W7BRS	#22091			

Results for Chadburn Cup for Clubs May 2023

Club	Ops	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
G6HH Hastings Electronics and Radio Club	G0ILN	1	1	-	65	1	23	23	18	
MX0PCN The Pelican Radio Group	G4YVM	2	2	-	11	1	10			

Comments for Ladder May 2023

Entrant	Comments
Greg DL3GJ	Again just two QSOs this month.. 73 de Greg DL3GJ
Ivan G0BON	Gave a few points away, cannot do the ladder seriously like I used to, all good fun for the short periods that I could do.
Simon G0FOZ	Second ever submission! Managed two sessions this month. Despite the "noise" of the WPX contest on the 28th it was great to work a few "regulars" and really enjoy the chatty nature of this activity :-) 73
Peter G3JRH	I only managed the afternoon sessions this month. 1st Sunday condx poor, 2nd Sunday condx quite good, but a lot of QRM from CQWPX stations. Peter G3JRH
Chris G3XVL	With a busy contest on and some very strong signals about I wound the filter up on my trusty TS590 and ploughed on making sure to hold the frequency after each QSO as it's a case of use or lose it!
Tony G3ZRJ	Thanks for ladder points, hope to work you for real QSOs soon 73 Tony
Robin G4DNP	Pleased to get some points this month, 73s Robin
Ray G4XUZ	Limited time again this month, but enjoyed the Ladder as always. Thanks to all. Ray G4XUZ
Steve G4YTK	Missed 11th May due to holiday. 28th bands very busy because of WPX contest
David GR4YVM	Pathetic entry but I tried
Pete M5ABN	Very little activity I'm afraid, DIY & gardening took up lots of time 73 Pete M5ABN
Les MM0UMH	Sorry I couldn't work the sessions on 28th May, but it was Bruichladdich Distillery open day during the annual Whisky Festival. My CW would have been even worse than usual although it would have sounded UFB to me. ;-)
Alan MW0BGL	A very poor return for me this month I'm afraid :(The first two sessions I wasn't able to get on air at all due to family commitments. Then on the 28th; between generally poor conditions, a contest and the pain I was suffering from a back injury sustained whilst gardening earlier that day (not looking for sympathy hihi!) I went QRT early to dose myself up with painkillers before going to bed. Fingers crossed for better luck this month. 73, de Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Norbert ON4ANE	28/05/2023: strange condx on 40m + CQ WPX it was not easy but show the power of CW, still making FISTS qso's with CQ TEST on top of us! 73 de Norbert ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	Was able to find a few ladder stns on 40m in the WPX contest. But nil on 80m and 20m. 73 Jan PA0SIM

Results for Ladder May 2023

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
MM0UMH	1	1	-	389	84	76	70	78	81
M5ABN	2	2	-	373	67	73	69	71	93
M0MCL	3	5	↑	256	34	58	55	38	71
ON4ANE	4	=6	↑	226	36	49	50	48	43
G3XVL	5	=6	↑	211	56	43	60	24	28
MW0BGL	6	3	↓	208	42	56	48	53	9
G4YTJ	7	4	↓	196	50	51	62	33	
G4YTK	8	8	-	191	36	36	54	35	30
G3ZRJ	9	10	↑	186	48		54	42	42
PA0SIM	10	9	↓	172	48	33	32	32	27
M7TSM	11	12	↑	169	30	36	34	32	37
G6HH	12	11	↓	139	7	74		58	
G0OEY	13	14	↑	115		21	30	45	19
G4XUZ	14	16	↑	114	30	32	27		25
M0SHM	15	18	↑	99	18	27	21	18	15
G0DFC	16	13	↓	98	34	28	24	12	
G4TPJ	17	15	↓	90	39	36	15		
G0OTT	18	17	↓	86	39		25	22	
M0PBZ	19	19	-	76	46			30	
SP7OGP	20	20	-	75	20		31	16	8
G3JRH	21	23	↑	66				39	27
M7NNQ	22	21	↓	58		18	8	32	
G0FOZ	23	32	↑	49				9	40
G0JHK	24	22	↓	48	36	12			
G4DNP	25	25	-	27	7	8	6		6
G0LLX	26	24	↓	23	23				
G0BON	=27	-	↑	18					18
G7BED	=27	26	↓	18		18			
G7WHI	29	27	↓	15	15				
DL3GJ	30	=29	↓	14	5	5	2		2
M0KTZ	31	28	↓	13	5		8		
SQ9S	32	=29	↓	12			3	9	
G4YVM	33	31	↓	11			11		
G3ZOD	34	-	↑	9					9
IU8OJT	35	33	↓	4	4				
GR4YVM	36	-	↑	3					3
OH7QR	37	34	↓	2				2	
MX5IPX*				9					9

* Check log

FISTS Spring Sunday Sprint 2023 Results
May 21, 2023

QRO Category

Call	Name	State	Fists #	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
K6DF	Dennis	CA	3076	10	2	54	8	432
WB9HFK	Mark	IL	7606	8	2	44	6	264
KE4QZB	Brian	NC	1934	2	2	14	4	56
KX4ASH	Ashley	NC	21671	1	0	5	1	5

SOAPBOX . . . Call
Comments

K6DF

Good Sprint, although lots of QSB on 20, signals up and down within seconds.
Still good fun, thanks to all stations contacted. 73 Dennis K6DF

KE4QZB

Was cool working California on 20m! Despite the poor conditions, was still a fun contest!! Glad we made it home for the last hour of the Sprint.

KX4ASH

Was making dinner but jumped on quickly to get my dear friend Dennis, K6DF in my log after my husband Brian did! Was really excited to hear Dennis booming in all the way from CA, even though conditions weren't very favorable.
Looking forward to the Summer Sprints!
73, Ashley KX4ASH

Changes to Sprints

We are making several changes to future [Fists CW Club Sprints!](#)

Sprints will now run over a **24-hour period** on the 2nd Saturday and 3rd Sunday in February, May, August, and November.

There will be **250 bonus points** added to the final score of any log with at least 25 QSO's.

Sprints will run from **0000 to 2359 UTC** on the following dates:

Summer:

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Fall:

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Sunday, November 19, 2023

Winter:

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Spring:

Saturday, May 11, 2024

Sunday, May 19, 2024

For more information, please visit: <https://fistsna.org/operating.php#sprints>

Upcoming Events

June 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Thu 01 Jun	Fri 30 Jun	FISTS Chadburn Cup	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 11 Jun		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 25 Jun		RSGB 6m CW Contest	0900-1200 UTC
Sun 25 Jun		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

July 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sat 01 Jul	Mon 31 Jul	ICWC Top 9 Quarter 3 season starts	
Sat 01 Jul		EuCW Snakes & Ladders summer/autumn season starts	0000 UTC
Sat 01 Jul	Mon 31 Jul	FISTS Chadburn Cup	0000-2359 UTC
Mon 03 Jul	Sun 09 Jul	FISTS Act Your Age Week	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 09 Jul		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 23 Jul		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

August 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Tue 01 Aug	Thu 31 Aug	FISTS Chadburn Cup	0000-2359 UTC
Sat 12 Aug		FISTS Summer Saturday Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 13 Aug		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 20 Aug		FISTS Summer Sunday Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 27 Aug		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
