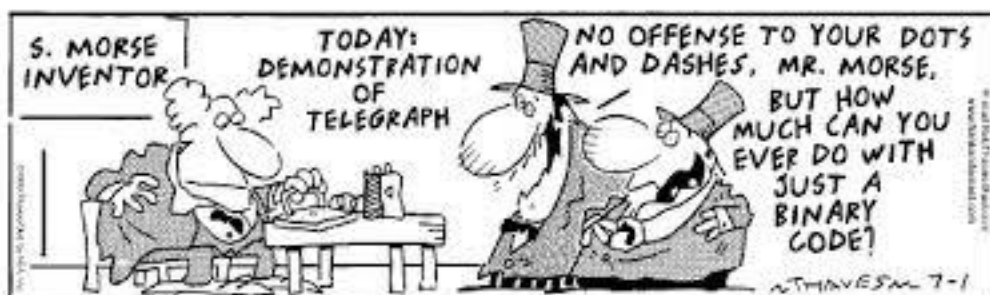




Welcome and a hearty Merry Christmas to you all.



Copyright © 1999 Thaves, Distributed by Newspaper Enterprise Association, Inc.

There you are, my gift to you all...

I'm not sure what conditions have been like generally this month as my own operating has been severely curtailed do simply to being very busy with work and family. Oddly busy really. What I do know is that when I have managed to get on conditions have been terrible...so maybe same all round. I see that the sun squirted some very large ejecta our way, resulting in fabulous aurora, as well as destroying the bouncy stuff in the ionosphere. Ya can't have it all ways!

Given that the HF bands haven't been brill I might have expected the 2m activity to be better frequented than it has been. Sadly this hasn't been the case and the Tuesday night 2030 to 2200 slot has also been rather dull. There have been some attendees and from soapbox comments they had a good time of it - albeit maybe one or two QSO only. I myself have had little success on 2m, which won't surprise anyone who keeps tabs on what I say about my QTH here.

Dusting kit off...

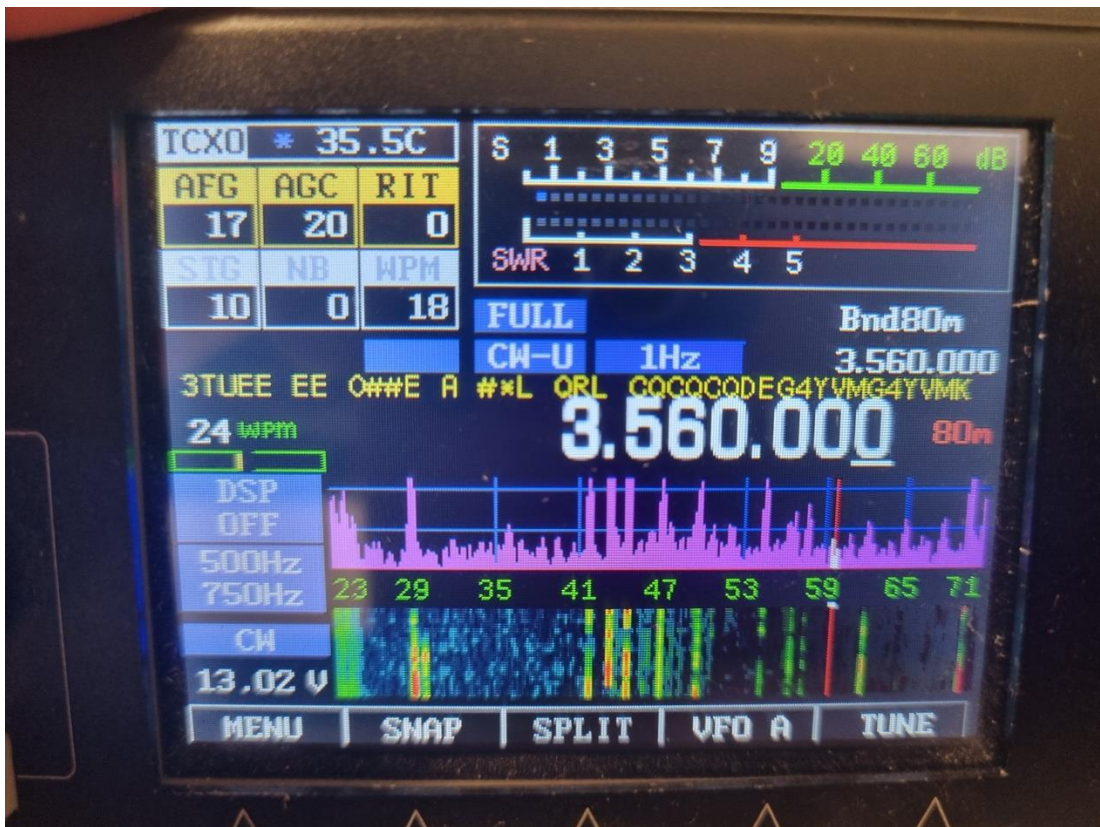
I suppose I am like many of you in that I have several radios stashed away in drawers and cupboards effectively gathering dust. I know why we do this of course, but it is always nice to drag one out and give it an airing. It's a good way of finding out what might have drawn us to it in the first place: was it the building challenge? The glossy case? The performance? Or just a bargain? Well, I was recently mooching through a cupboard when I came upon my old mHF homebrew radio

which I had all but forgotten about. This will never be sold, it's a keeper for sure, but I had still forgotten about it. I'm not sure you can buy mcHF kits anymore but you can buy any number of Chinese versions, which have had a reputation for almost built-in instability and unreliability. I suspect it's not so much the actual radios that are bad but the software of course and the fact that it is all 'open software'. Let enough people fool around with your software and some of them will ruin it! They will be the ones who shout loudest of course - no doubt any number of decent sensible chaps have bought these radios from China, just got on with them and said nothing because they work.

When Kris made the original mcHF kits he claimed to have designed the best radio out there bar none which may well have been true when I fell for this and bought mine - gotta have the bestest going - and set to with gusto. It was some way into the build that the penny dropped...the best radio by design is never going to be the best radio if it is home built! The performance of MY radio is, whatever the design spec says, only as good as my windings, my soldering, my component spacing etc etc. Still, I enjoyed it. I thought the same thing about a rather expensive 2m Yagi I bought from some Dx shop once. It cost a fortune and was accurate to 10ths of a mm...woo hoo thought I, ain't no stopping me now...then I saw what happened after a few weeks in the air and the birds had rearranged it. So much for 10ths of a mm now, more like 10s of ditto. I sold it and erected a 1980s Jaybeam...just as good and less fragile.

Marketing works you see...we all are victim to it.

Pics below show the full screen and the whole radio, mcHF. G4YVM photo.



[Mark your diary...](#)

Don't forget these gems...

WIN RSGB YEARBOOK

Continuous running, 24/7 from start to finish BUT if you concentrate your activity around the cardinal hours it will improve chances...maybe! So, operate any time at all but try to be on at 00, 03, 06, 09, 12, 15, 18, 21.

00:01Z Friday 1st December to 23:59Z Sunday 31st December.

Greatest score wins the latest (2024) RSGB year book. Free to enter, just submit logs. See FISTS website for full details, but usual rules!

100 YEARS OF BIG BEN ON THE WIRELESS

100 years ago this month, on 31st December 1923 the **BBC** broadcast the sound of **Big Ben** for the very first time...and hasn't stopped since. Big Ben, iconic bell in the Elizabeth Tower in the Palace of Westminster weighs in at almost 14 tons, and is known around the globe. Join us for this one day commemoration of Big Ben's wireless debut! We are using ONLY 80m and 20m, good winter night and day bands. AND they add up to 100!!

Continuous running for 24 hours BUT if you concentrate your activity around the cardinal hours it will improve chances...maybe! So, operate any time at all but try to be on at 00, 03, 06, 09, 12, 15, 18, 21.

00:01Z to 23:59Z Sunday 31st December.

That's me for this calendar year, have a great and merry Christmas and I wish blessings on you and yours. Best 73

David G4YVM. F15868

Right here are the tables...

New Members

Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.
Claudia	AC7LF	#22299	Dave	NV7LV	#22315	Greg	ZL4GW	#22402
Joe	KB4N	#22300	Scott	K9MA	#22316	Mike	G4GHL	#22403
Robert	NH6O	#22301	Raymond	WB0SMZ	#22317	Vincent	PE2V	#22404
Daryl	W0BZ	#22302	Don	KO4PGE	#22318	Plam	LZ1PID	#22405
Troy	K6AVS	#22303	Gene	KF4NOG	#22319	Shaun	G0IDS	#22406
Nathaniel	N5PKR	#22304	Jerry	WB4OWC	#22320	Brian	G4SZD	#22407
Mitchel	NK3H	#22305	David	KB9LBO	#22321	Marc	2E0INQ	#22408
Roger	WA3VYP	#22306	Jonathan	KO4KQR	#22322	Merv	M0MIN	#22409
Rick	NF6G	#22307	Jacek	W9000	#22323	Gert	PA1GVZ	#22410
Stuart	KC3MAL	#22308	Scott	AI5EF	#22324	Hans	PE1HVV	#22411
Bert	WB6QCS	#22309	Henry	N1KUV	#22325	Gee	GM0GMT	#22412
Peter	N0STP	#22310	James	K6DCO	#22326	Chris	G0EYO	#22413
Scott	N7YTF	#22311	Dale	KK7HVN	#22327	Wilson	G6WQN	#22414
Jack	K7ISM	#22312	Randy	KO4WTM	#22328	Paul	GOLFO	#22415
Paul	WA2TAX	#22313	Roy	KI0ER	#22329	Faraaz	VK4JJ	#22416
Anthony	KZ5Y	#22314	Carlo	DL2ITA	#22401			

Awards

Name	Callsign	Member	Awards
Ian	G4MLW	#130	Millionaire 16 Million Endorsement
Les	MM0UMH	#14853	Basic Century Silver Century Millionaire, Millionaire 2 Million Endorsement Spectrum 40m
Joel	W4JBB	#16885	Basic Century Millionaire, Millionaire 2 Million Endorsement
Paul	M0GSX	#17642	Millionaire 3 Million Endorsement
Vladislav	IU0HMB	#18894	Spectrum 10m Endorsement
Mitch	G4WPS	#20667	Basic Century
Graziano	IZ0ONL	#20682	Millionaire 2 Million Endorsement
Stephen	G4YTK	#21571	Basic Century Millionaire

Comments for Winter Warmer 2023

Entrant	Comments
Alan MW0BGL	I've attached my log sheet for the Winter Warmer event. Enjoyed a good many rag chew QSOs during the event. Best 73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Jo OE6PJD	Dear folks, please find attached my log for the November winter warmer 2023. Thank you, 73 de Jo, oe6pjd
Norbert ON4ANE	Hi David, all qso's on the EFHW, but not the result I was expecting. 73 de Norbert ON4ANE

Results for Winter Warmer 2023

Callsign	Position	Points
MW0BGL	1	269
ON4ANE	2	77
IU8OJT	3	23
OE6PJD	4	16

Comments for Ladder November 2023

Entrant	Comments
Greg DL3GJ	Long, dark evenings support spending time in the shack. 73 de Greg DL3GJ
Simon G0FOZ	40M was a nightmare on the 26th owing to the S9++ QRM (others might call that the CQ WW contest). Nice to work a few on the (barely) more quiet 80M though. Fun as always - 73 to all. Simon G0FOZ
Andy G0LLX	I had an operation on my right hand at the end of August, so this was the best I could manage ...)
Michael G3PCL	I hope it works this time. The October results did not show my name.* *Reply from FISTS IT Dept.: October result was position 41 on page 8 of the November BrassPounder
Chris G3XVL	With the busy contests in full flow, but I found it quite rewarding to get some FISTS stations in the log, Merry Xmas !
Tony G3ZRJ	Domestic probs makes QRV tough sorry 73 Tony
Ray G4XUZ	Very limited time (even less after clock-change), so only 6 ladder QSOs. But good fun - thanks to all, Ray G4XUZ.
John G4YTJ	QRP log this month as I try out my QMX. Not much success on 26th with the contest at the same time - RBN shows few Fists members on the ladder.
Kevin M0MCL	David, Please see attached my log for last month's ladder. Unfortunately family commitments prevented me from participating on the 26th November but was able to enjoy the previous session held on the 12th November. 73s Kevin M0MCL, #20982
Steve M0SHM	Great fun as there is always plenty of activity on the Ladder.
Pete M5ABN	Only worked first weekend due to contest on forth Sunday. it was my pleasure to work Mike G4GHL with his brand new fists number and his first fists QSO. 73 Pete M5ABN
Les MM0UMH	Rather a battle with QRM on the afternoon of 26/11 so decided to give the evening session a miss. :-)
Alan MW0BGL	Please find attached my log entry for November's ladder sessions. The number of stations worked, especially in the evening session of the 26th, is down somewhat this month due mainly to heavy QRM from contest stations. Bizarrely, three of said contesters answered my CQ Fists call. I've not included these in the log, because they only gave me standard contest "5nn" QSOs hihi. 73 de Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Please find attached my log. 73 Erkki OH7QR 8318

Norbert ON4ANE	Hi David, since the end of October i replaced my dipole @3m agl by an EFHW. Not sure if the result will give me more QSO but on 80m it seems even more difficult than before. CQ WW CW made it difficult to find someone in the last weekend 3 de Norbert ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	Could manage to work G3XVL, G4YTK and MM0UHM despite the CQWW contest. Haven't tried it in the evening session. 73 Jan PA0SIM
Martin PE1EEC	Only session for the month.

Results for Ladder November 2023

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
MM0UMH	1	1	-	881	84	76	70	78	81	81	75	92	89	71	84
M5ABN	2	2	-	813	67	73	69	71	93	81	79	62	66	71	81
M0MCL	3	3	-	550	34	58	55	38	71	43	48	27	69	56	51
MW0BGL	4	4	-	504	42	56	48	53	9	46	56	52	58	44	40
ON4ANE	5	5	-	499	36	49	50	48	43	30	54	47	52	48	42
G4YTJ	6	6	-	489	50	51	62	33		47	52	68	56	31	39
G3XVL	7	7	-	440	56	43	60	24	28		16	45	49	46	73
G0FOZ	8	=8	-	427				9	40	51	53	85	70	58	61
G4YTK	9	10	↑	425	36	36	54	35	30	21	45	39	24	45	60
M7TSM	10	=8	↓	418	30	36	34	32	37	33	37	37	45	45	52
G3ZRJ	11	11	-	369	48		54	42	42	80	45	46			12
PA0SIM	12	12	-	310	48	33	32	32	27	15	36	30	12	24	21
M0SHM	13	13	-	236	18	27	21	18	15		24	30	38	21	24
G4XUZ	14	15	↑	213	30	32	27		25	21	24	21		18	15
G0BON	15	14	↓	203					18		46	51	88		
G3JRH	16	16	-	171				39	27	15	43	29	18		
M0PBZ	17	17	-	165	46			30		34	55				
G4TPJ	18	18	-	150	39	36	15				33			27	
G6HH	19	19	-	139	7	74		58							
G0OTT	20	20	-	131	39		25	22						45	
M7NNQ	21	21	-	118		18	8	32			15	21		24	
G0DFC	22	22	-	117	34	28	24	12			19				
G0OEY	23	23	-	115		21	30	45	19						
SP7OGP	24	24	-	96	20		31	16	8	21					
G0JHK	25	25	-	91	36	12				43					
G3ZOD	26	26	-	78					9	6	15	9	18	21	
G4DNP	27	27	-	68	7	8	6		6	6	4	3	4	24	
OH7QR	28	29	↑	67				2			3		25	19	18
G0LLX	29	28	↓	59	23					9	18				9
DL3GJ	30	31	↑	45	5	5	2		2	2	6	1	6	6	10
SQ9S	31	30	↓	36			3	9		12			12		
G0HGH	32	32	-	30						18		12			
5B4AHO	33	33	-	24								12	12		

PE1EEC	34	=35	↑	20						3			15	2
M0KTZ	35	34	↓	19	5		8			3		3		
G7BED	36	=35	↓	18		18								
G7WHI	=37	=37	-	15	15									
M0SDB	=37	=37	-	15									15	
ON6ZQ	39	-	↑	12										12
G4YVM	40	39	↓	11			11							
G3PCL	41	=41	-	7									3	4
IU8OJT	42	40	↓	4	4									
G0XAH	=43	=41	↓	3							3			
GR4YVM	=43	=41	↓	3					3					
F5NFB	45	44	↓	1							1			
MX5IPX*				34					9	3		3	19	

* Check log

FISTS Fall Saturday Sprint 2023 Results Nov 11, 2023

QRO Category

Call	Name	State	FISTS #	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Bonus	Score
WB9HFK	Mark	IL	7606	45	28	281	30	250	8680
K6DF	Dennis	CA	3076	4	8	36	9	0	324
K4BAI	John	GA	2158	6	4	38	8	0	304
N5TML	Tim	TX	21761	1	2	9	3	0	27
KE4QZB	Brian	NC	1934	0	1	2	1	0	2

SOAPBOX . . . Call Comments

Dennis K6DF #3076

FISTS Sprints, always great fun and 10 meters was open! 73, Dennis K6DF

Brian KE4QZB #1934

Hello all!!! I had fun with what little time I could operate!! I was running an old 70 year old Heathkit AT1, crystal controlled, 15 watts and a long wire at 45 feet. Receiver was a SX140. Hope to hear yâ€™all next week, be listening for my novice station !! 73

FISTS Fall Sunday Sprint 2023 Results Nov 19, 2023

QRO Category

Call	Name	State	Fists #	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
WB0CJB	Paul	TN	12460	17	7	99	18	1782
WB9HFK	Mark	IL	7606	9	0	45	7	315
AC7LF	Claudia	ID	22299	3	1	17	3	51
K6DF	Dennis	CA	3076	2	3	16	3	48
KE4QZB	Brian	NC	1934	1	0	5	1	5
N5TML	Tim	TX	21761	1	0	5	1	5

SOAPBOX . . . Call Comments

Brian KE4QZB #1934

Enjoyed working the FISTS Sprint, did not have much time this time, but what time I did have, enjoyed it! Was running an Old Hallicrafters SX140 receiver and a Knight T-60. The cool thing about this contact, I was in Monroe, NC and Scott, KC9YI, was in Monroe, WI! 73 Happy Holidays, KE4QZB

Dennis K6DF #3076

Happy Holidays! 73, Dennis K6DF

Upcoming Events

December 2023

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Fri 01 Dec	Sun 31 Dec	FISTS Win RSGB Yearbook	24x7 UTC
Mon 11 Dec	Sun 17 Dec	FISTS Mechanical Key Week	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 24 Dec		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 31 Dec	Sun 31 Dec	FISTS 100 Years of Big Ben on the Wireless	0001-2359 UTC

January 2024

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Mon 01 Jan		ICWC Top 9 Quarter 1 season starts	0000 UTC
Mon 01 Jan		EuCW Snakes & Ladders winter/spring season starts	0000 UTC
Sun 14 Jan		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 28 Jan		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

February 2024

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sat 10 Feb		FISTS Winter Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 11 Feb		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 18 Feb		FISTS Winter Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 25 Feb		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
