

BRASSPOUNDER

August 2010 (Issue 53)

Welcome to the August edition.

Another month arrives and leaves with haste, where does the time go? As I prepare BP we are enjoying good weather after wet week here in the West Midlands and certainly a good percentage of the UK. I assume that many will be taking the chance to do last minute maintenance to aerials etc. And no doubt last minute chores in the garden.

Lets look at some of the reports/comments received.

Firstly from Roy, GI4CBG

Hello Rob.

I enclose my ladder for August. Activity has generally been curtailed as I have taken delivery of my new rig, FT450AT; and I'm still trying to find my way around all the new knobs and switches and find out what does what! There are 99 pages in the manual, so far I've only used the info on a fraction of them. But I'm getting there, using 80w to my doublet. I haven't used the automatic ATU yet, I still prefer to use my Palstar AT1.

Thank you for all your good work within FISTS.

73, Roy, GI4CBG

Hello Roy, good to hear from you, and thanks for your kind words, as mentioned before, its a team effort and a pleasure to do. Good to hear that you're ploughing through the manual, all new equipment these days, comes with ever increasing pages! I recollect spending a good day looking through the manual for my Icom before even turning it on!

And from Graham 2E0JYK

Hi Rob, enclosed my activity ladder for August. Had a good time contacting members/non-members, and am enjoying my CW more and more! I hope to be on the HF Bands soon when I feel more confident and a little more experienced on the key. I feel that I'm doing well, and the local lads are saying to me that like everything else, it will come to those who persevere. A big thank you must go to G4LHI who introduced me to the club and CW. And the others for their patience. I wished he'd have twisted

my arm back in 2005!

Kind regards to all. Graham. 2E0JYK #14822

Hello Graham, good to hear that you're enjoying membership of the society and your CW. Peter has introduced many to the club over the years, and of course supported those who are starting to use the mode, many will look forward to you joining in on HF and meeting you and getting your number in their logs. Stick at it, you will find it a very rewarding journey.

From Phil, M6PHL

Hello Robert,

Here is my log for the August Fists Ladder.

Once again thanks to all those members I worked during August, I find the evening sessions do seem to be a bit better than those in the afternoon at the moment.

Once again many thanks to all those worked in August and I look forward to hearing you all on next months Ladder.

73

Phil

M6PHL

Fists:14543

Good to hear from you once again Phil. G0AZR mentioned to me in email that he too had a good evening session during the month. The 4 periods of operation were designed to help people who have other things to do or take advantage of the conditions to meet more members on air.

From Gra. G3ZOD

Ladder

I was limited this month again to one Sunday (22nd August) but did manage to do a little better, including a 40m QSO during the afternoon session. It was particularly nice to meet up with Paul G4LNA #14815 for the first time during the evening on 80m.

VHF

I came 69 out of 73 in the 6m July UKAC with my usual CW-only entry, which I'm happy with given the power and indoor antenna. I've submitted "FISTS CW Club" in the past few entries as the UKAC contests allow points to be allocated to RSGB-affiliated societies - I figure the publicity can't hurt! As a club we're 39/41. If anyone else can join in, it would help move FISTS up the table.

I did the same with the 4m UKAC this month, although it proved even tougher than getting contacts than on 6m.

HQ Callsigns and Points

From talking to Dennis K6DF (FISTS Awards manager) while working on a small software project, it turns out there is some confusion about points for FISTS HQ club stations GX0IPX #1, GX3ZQS #2 and MX5IPX #7778. For the purposes of Awards such as the Basic Century, only GX0IPX is counted as an HQ club station (5 points). On the other hand, my understanding is that for Activities such as the Ladder, all three are counted as HQ club stations for 5 points.

A suggestion: as the 2011 Activity Calendar is on the horizon, how about including the list of which callsigns count as HQ Club stations for the Activities? I believe that they are GX0IPX, GX3ZQS, MX5IPX, VK2FDU, ZL6FF, JL3YMV and KN0WCW.

And a welcome back to Kevin,G4CMZ, who comments;

Hi Rob, managed to find some time at last, unfortunately the band was very poor. Looking forward to catching up with some friends again. Take care.
G4CMZ 6440 .

Good to hear from you once again Kev. I'm sure the ladder members are pleased to hear on air.

From Piet; PA3AFF

Dr Robert,

Here my ladder results for August.
Vy happy to have worked David G3SCD aka VK3DBD.
My score 11 points.
Stn: TS130V 15 W, 40m: dipole, 80m: 41m Zepp

73 de PA3AFF, Piet, Schaft, Fists 445.

Good to hear from you once again Piet. It would be nice to get David with his "VK" Call in September (Hi)

And from Peter G4LHI.

Hello Robert, I attach my claim & report for the August Ladder. In spite of pretty ruff conditions on the bands it was fun, it was still a bit of a struggle to get a decent score again this month, but I did slightly improve on my July total, perhaps conditions will improve as the days get shorter & winter sets in brrrr?. I had a job to decide out of the two sessions on the 8th, both being for 14 points, but I decided on the evening session as I worked a new member (for me) Reg GI4BBE, 1188, many thanks



Reg. The afternoon of the 22nd was a different story, I tail ended Daryl on 80m, he gave me the QRG & I could not get off, station after station called me in spite of the poor condition, sorry for those that I just could not resolve & I finally managed to pass the QRG over to Graham G3ZOD, many thanks Graham, nice to have been able to pull you out of the noise, hope you did well?. I did have 8 QSO's for 14 points on the 8th evening session & in the afternoon session on the 22nd 11 QSO's for 21 points, giving me a little better total for August of 35 points, but as always a very enjoyable event & nice to meet new & old friends again. Very nice to see the list of entries is getting bigger each month & especially nice to see new callsigns appearing on the list, must be encouraging for our Activity Manager. Very many thanks to all for the QSO's the signals were up & down on all stations, but if it was easy we would not enjoy it so much hi. I see Graham, 2E0JYK, # 14822, joined in again this month & is creeping up the Ladder, watch out guys he is chasing us. That's all for now folks, see you on the Ladder in September, by the time we get the next BP the SK Week will have been & gone, I do hope it was a successful event this year Rob?

73/88 de Peter G4LHI # 2219 & Jean xx

Hello Peter. Good to hear from you, and thanks for your report and overview. As some may be aware, I did find time to get on with club calls, GX0IPX, #1 and GX3ZQS, #2 during SKW; thanks to all who called in, allways a pleasure to meet members. Logs are arriving at M0BPT for SKW, very pleased to read your comments. SKW results will be published in due course. In answer to your question Peter; Early signs are that SKW 2010 has been received with enthusiasm by members. Thanks for the image of yourself with the EUCW Award 2010.

And from Jeremy, G0AZR

Hope things are well with you.

Attached is my small contribution to the August Ladder.

Radio time has been curtailed a little due to XYL illness.....

Conditions were quite variable for the two sessions on the 8th; 20 mtrs was patchy and 80 non existent for me in the afternoon. Come evening time 80 became quite good, shame we had to stop at 9pm.

Thanks again for all you put into the ladder and Brasspounder.....

Jeremy, G0AZR

Hello Jeremy, good to hear from you once again. Sorry to hear that June is not too well, On behalf of us all, wish her a speedy return to good health. Thanks for your kind words, as mentioned, it's a team effort and something I enjoy doing.

From Derek, M0DRK

Hi Robert, Both sessions done in one day. Many thanks to the local members and thank heavens for 2m cw. Could only hear Erkki OH7QR above S7 of noise at times on 20m and 80m was just as bad. Hope all OK with you and see you next month, 73s for now, Derek M0DRK.

Good to hear from you once again Derek.....2M CW? a great favourite of mine....

From Bill, G0BAK.

Hi Rob

Please find attached my Fists Activity Ladder Log for August 2010.

We were away on Holiday in Ibiza early in August so I missed that Ladder session. On our return I discovered that my Yaesu FT950 had developed a fault which meant it had to go back to Yaesu for sorting. To say I was gutted was putting it mildly. The 950 is the first radio that I have bought new and for it to have a fault after only 8 months has made me feel a little uncomfortable.

The xyl had arranged a trip to the Beamish Museum in Co Durham on the 22nd and so it looked like August was going to be a nil point Ladder Score for me. We did however get an early start on the day and found ourselves back in Leeds for 6PM. I sweet talked the xyl into letting me have a blast on my old Alinco DX70 on our return. This took a bit of time and I then realised that I needed to dig out the old manual ATU for the radio and also to stick some batteries into my home made keyer (trust me you don't want to hear me on a straight key). Just managed to get the antenna loaded and some rf out

in time for the 18.00 utc start.

Well the old Alinco did me proud I had forgot just how good that radio is. 50 Watts on 80 metres brought me 7 contacts all of them Fists members and 3 new callsigns for me. I had a good chat with Dave in Birmingham G4ZPI who was sending super cw using his modified Bencher paddle, well worth a look on his page at www.qrz.com.

So lets hope the Yaesu FT950 returns in time for the September Ladder. Best wishes as always to all at your end Rob and to all Fists Members.

Bill

GOBAK

Fists 13262

Allways a pleasure to hear from you Bill, The news about the 950 is unsettling, lets hope it's just a minor glitch. I find that the Alinco marque is much underated by amateurs, I have a 70cms F3E set which is an exceptional performer; (If you can find anyone on there these days!)

Some other items of news and images;From Vitaly; UU7JF

Hi Robert, Many thanks for nice awards from the FISTS club. I Hope to take part at the next QRS party. The main advocate of QRS days in our RUQRP club is Valery RW3AI. I think next year RUQRP members will be there with new CW operators in your Party. 73! Vitaly. UU7JF



And from YL op Rosel, DL2FCA



Dear OM Robert. Thank you very much for your mail. I received the "Most Readable Morse Certificate" and the "First Place Award" for taking part in the EUCW/FISTS-QRS-Party. I'm happy and thankful for this success. If it's possible, I will be QRV next year again.
Vy 73 Rosel, DL2FCA

As you are all aware, I enjoy receiving images and news from amateurs; either FISTS or EUCW members. Keep them coming! It's surprising just how much others are pleased to see the "Face behind the key" in BP!

Some EUCW Results from Paul HB9DST. ECM of the Helvetia Telegraphy Club; HB9HTC.

Hello all,

I have just posted a file with the complete results from the 2010 National Mountain Day contest.

Summary:

The top placing stations were:

1. HB9ABO/p
2. HB9BXE/p
3. HB9CGA/p

The winner of the special prize (points/kg) was HB9TVK/p (459 points/kg)

The winner of the home-station prize (bottle of wine) was HB9AIY

The top-ranking DX station in the home category was OK1DMA (#10).

Others who send logs in the home-station category were: OE4AAC, OK1XMS/p, OK1DM and OK1TFH.

Thanks for participating, look forward to seeing you in 2011.

73,

Paul HB9DST / AA1MI

EUCW Communications Manager
Helvetia Telegraphy Club HB9HTC

Incidentally, you can read news from EUCW on their Yahoo Groups page: just go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eucw/> for forthcoming events etc.

Whilst exchanging emails with M5FRA regarding CW, the conversation yielded this information and images which I'll share with you....



I built what I call a 'Morse box'. It has an AF osc (simple NE555 circuit) and 2 key jacks and 2 headphone jacks with individual volume controls. I often use an earpiece insert plugged into one of the headphone jacks as a substitute for headphones. The idea being that 2 people can send to each other or it can just be used as a practice osc. It also has a keyer with separate jack for paddles and a speed pot. So I use that for practice but also have paddles connected to the rig and use the inbuilt keyer.



Thanks for the images Colin. (Good to work you during SKW)

Some news from G3ZOD on members who have received awards.

August FISTS Awards

Congratulations to:

John 2E0JCY #13253 on achieving the Basic Century Award.

Bert F6HKA #14577 on achieving the Worked All States Award.

Thats all from me for another month. You'll know by now that my web-page has changed and there is not so much archived on here... A full archive of BP's are

available to view on the fists website www.fists.co.uk for those of you who like to look through previous offerings.

The SKW logs are being received at M0BPT; I look forward to receiving many more, so without further ado; send them to me! EYAW and SKW are two of the annual events that are well received and have become popular with you all, so it'll be a pleasure to receive a log from you, no matter how large or small!

Here are the ladder results; SKW results to follow in due course.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DECT	TOTAL	SPWR
G4LHI	31	38	45	33	31	27	32	35					272	QRO
G0BAK	21	29	28	29	19	9	11	14					160	QRO
M6PHL	13	15	28	19	18	18	21	23					155	QRO
OH7QR	16	0	15	24	13	23	23	9					123	QRO
M0DRK	11	22	20	15	7	6	16	15					112	QRO
G3ZOD	8	16	11	16	8	13	6	10					88	QRO
G0AZR	0	29	0	0	23	6	13	10					81	QRP
G3LHJ	0	0	28	20	0	0	0	0					48	QRO
G0OTT	0	19	21	21	0	0	0	0					61	QRO
M5ABN	0	0	0	16	20	23	0	0					59	QRO
PA3AFF	0	0	22	0	8	5	11	13					59	QRO
GI4CBG	6	4	10	14	8	0	6	10					58	QRO
2E0JCY	0	14	14	19	0	0	0	0					47	QRO
2E0JYK	0	0	0	0	0	7	13	12					32	QRO
M5FRA	0	0	0	14	10	0	0	0					24	QRO
G4MSN	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0					22	MIX
G4CMZ	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	4					22	QRP
M0GGK	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					7	QRO
M0XED	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0					6	QRP
PA1SOP	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0					4	QRO

Till next time; Keep well, Keep pounding Brass!
73. M0BPT