

BRASSPOUNDER

December 2011

Issue 69

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Welcome once again to the December edition.

This is of course the final one of 2011.

Summarising the year; it has been an eventful (excuse the pun) one, where the FSA had been well received by those who participated, and other events were supported with enthusiasm.

I will look at re-introducing the FSA to the 2013 calendar, as I have received many comments from members that did join in how much they will miss the activity during 2012.

As most, if not all will be aware, 2012 heralds some "birthdays".

The main one of course, is our silver jubilee year as a society.

Another event is of course the 100th anniversary of the loss of perhaps the most iconic liner, namely the RMS Titanic.

You'll have no doubt noticed that as a society tasked with the preservation of Morse code; I have made provision during 2012 to commemorate both. As you know, I've been liaising with other interested parties regarding the Titanic anniversary, and I bring news of another special event call-sign which will be active during our commemorative sprint.

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Hi Rob,

I'm writing to make you aware of an SES; Ei100T. We will be operating this SE station from Cobh, which was Titanic's last port of call, during most of 2012, with special activities planned for the weekend of 14-16 April. The modes will be predominantly CW so I thought this might be of interest for the sprint.

Details of the station are on QRZ.com and on <http://ei4hq.cloudaccess.net/ei100t-titanic.html>.

EI4HQ is also a fists member.

73 de Tim EI2KA / G2YC

FISTS #14016

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Many thanks to Tim for his input and participation in the event, and if you are entering the sprint, add EI100T to your list of participating stations. I shall of course be updating the 24 hour sprint list as and when I hear from others who are coming on board.

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Lets take a look at news and comments received this month.

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From Erkki. OH7QR.

Hello Robert,

Attached is my FSA log for December. I liked the activity very much, it offered an excellent opportunity to collect points for Fists Rag Chewers Award. I had my 100th QSO on 14th of December with my dear friend Peter G4LHI and I sent my claim right away to Dennis (I haven't got the award yet). During the year I had 29 QSOs suitable for the award, 7 of those were with Peter). Many thanks to all, who helped me.

Although the FSA will not run in 2012, I've began to record my QSOs in an Excel file just like in FSA but only for myself. I'll try to break my record of 2011, HI.

Many thanks for the good work you do for the club, Robert. I'm looking forward to the interesting events you have arranged us for this year.

161

Erkki OH7QR, fists 8318

Hello Erkki.

So pleased to hear that yourself and others enjoyed the event. Be assured that I will look at adding it to the 2013 activity calendar once again.

Many thanks for your kind words, it's a team effort that we all enjoy doing.

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From Greg. G0DUB

Hi Rob,

the ladder year finished with a whimper rather than a bang :-(

I struggled getting contacts on the 11th and Christmas Day was just not an option for any operation for obvious reasons.

Thanks to everyone for the contacts and looking forward to next years activity.

Happy New Year & 73,

Greg, G0DUB

Fists Nr. 6095

Hello Greg.

You managed to get on during December and finish the year off. I did wonder how many stalwarts, if any, would make an appearance on Xmas day. I guess you just couldn't think of a good excuse! Hihi.

Look forward to hearing from you in the new year.

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From Gra. G3ZOD.

Hi Rob. Sadly I was unable to find time to get on the air for the Ladder sessions on 11th December and 25th December. This has left me with just a Four Seasons entry this month.

I was pleased to meet up with members Erkki OH7QR and Don CN2JV for the first time on 10m. On both occasions the QSOs got cut short by some fairly severe QSB. I also met member Huw GW4DWN for the first time, on this occasion on 80m.

For anyone missing the Four Seasons, you can always take part in the FISTS Prefix Awards. Two of the awards require 10 contacts with FISTS members and up to 240 contacts with non-members, so there's plenty of scope for making non-FISTS QSOs count. Many thanks for your work on the Activities during 2011 and to everyone who has taken part.

Happy New Year and 73 de Graham G3ZOD FISTS
#8385

Hello Gra.

December is always a busy time for members, but
you managed a FSA Entry.

My thanks to you are reciprocated for the fine job you
do in maintaining the FISTS EU Website.

As we're both aware, its something we enjoy doing.

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From Erkki OH7QR with his report on the ladder activity.

Hello Robert,

Please find attached my Ladder log for December. I had 180 QSOs during the year 2011. My special thanks to G4LHI 20 QSOs, M6PHL also 20 QSOs (of wich 1 QSO with MR6PHL, G3ZOD 16 contacts (4 with call MX5IPX), G0SXM 11 QSOs and M0DRK 10 QSOs. Many thanks also to other members and non-members who gave me points during the activity. Good luck in 2012, good DX and I wish to work all of you also in 2012.

73

Erkki OH7QR fists 8318

Once again Erkki. Glad you've enjoyed the 2011 ladder, lets hope I can find more time on 2012 to get on air.

-oo0oo-

From Derek. M0DRK.

Hi Robert,

Hope that you enjoyed your Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Mollie and I had a quiet but very nice time, plenty of family visitors on Boxing day, hi.

Here is the last Ladder Log for 2011. Many thanks to all those that I had a QSO with during 2011 and hope to meet you all again soon.

Take care, 73 for now, Derek, M0DRK.

Hello Derek.

Good to hear from you. Pleased you managed to get on during the month. A quiet festive period here, very enjoyable all the same.

Look forward to hearing from you in 2012.

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And from Peter G4LHI.

Hello Rob.

My summary for December 2011 FSA.

A fairly reasonable score this month, considering the poor band cndx agn, but certainly a slight improvement in some band cndx with some of the HF bands wide open at times, but only had three 10m QSO's early in the month.

Very nice to work ZL3PAH, Phil, in Christchurch, for the first time & on 30m. This was the only real DX QSO I had during the month.

Very many thanks to all those that support this event, members & non members, & let's hope the band conditions will continue to improve?

I had 104 QSO's for a total of 390 points, very pleased to work 4 new members, only had the one maximum 90 minutes with dear Erkki, OH7QR, this month, Many thanks for that Erkki & the new members.

Very many thanks as always to all members & non members that suffered some poor conditions & "CQ test" on the bands at times to make this a very interesting & challenging event, unfortunately it will be the last of the FSA for a while, but I'm sure we can twist dear Robs arm to bring it back again soon.

I can understand the reason why Rob has withdrawn this event, & I was surprised he did not call a halt to it during the year. The lack of Fists Members active in this event was very disappointing. I did a very rough check on my claims for the whole year, & it was about 50/50 Members & non Members. It gave me quite a lot of chance to explain to the non members about the Activities of our club & may have encouraged a few new members, also good practice & I need plenty of that hi!

Hope you have all seen & studied the 2012 Activities Rob has provided for us; hope to catch up with some of you on there.

Take care & until we meet again, keep bashing the brass & keep the bands open & most of all enjoy CW & have fun.

73 de Peter G4LHI # 2219

Hello once again dear friend.

Many thanks for your concise report on the FSA. As earlier commented, I'm so pleased that those who took part enjoyed the event.

Perhaps not much arm twisting is needed to reactivate the event in the future. Hi.

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I've heard and received two entries from new member Eddi, DK3UZ. 15596.

Who comments;

Hello Rob.

I think it is a pity there will be no more FSA.

This system of working for points when one can instead of when one must, suits much more my style of operating and is, in my opinion, better suited to increase overall CW activity, rather than a contest like event at a fixed time slot.

In the latter of which all descend locust-like on a band, wreak havoc for a while, only to disappear all

at the same time with a deathlike silence on the bands in its wake.

Hello Eddi. Good to hear from you, and your comments are gratefully received.

I know many will agree with your sentiments.

Be assured that a 2013 FSA will be looked at carefully.

And I hope you will find time to enjoy the 2012 activities.

Many thanks for your entries in the activity.

-oo0oo-

From Martin, IK2RMZ

Hi Robert,

Happy New Year and best wishes to you and yours.

Thanks for your voluntary work for FISTS.

This is my final sprint of the Four Seasons Activity.

Guess at last I have a nice score, too :-)

Of course I know that DK3UZ was the op of DK0AG in the second half of December. I interpreted the rules to my favour and counted the QSO's with DK3UZ as QSO's with a member while I treated the DK0AG QSO's with a non-member, Anyway, it's the fun which counts, not the score. And I had lots of fun in this activity.

So I am really disappointed that it lasted only a year. This is amplified by the sad fact that there is no substitute – no permanent activity.

But if an activity can be stopped in June (like the last WARC) it is also possible that one may be born at an odd date 😊

73. Martin.

Good to hear from you Martin.

I have taken on board both yours and other comments. See my remarks at the end of this newsletter.

-oo0oo-

And from Geoff, G0DDX

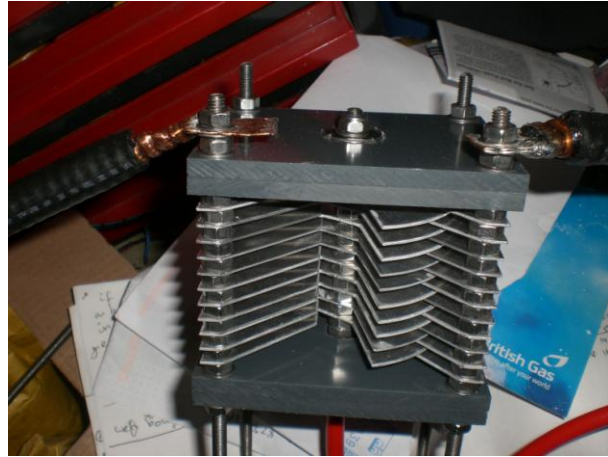
Robert,

Please see attached File for my December Fists Ladder session. Not many stations worked, again.

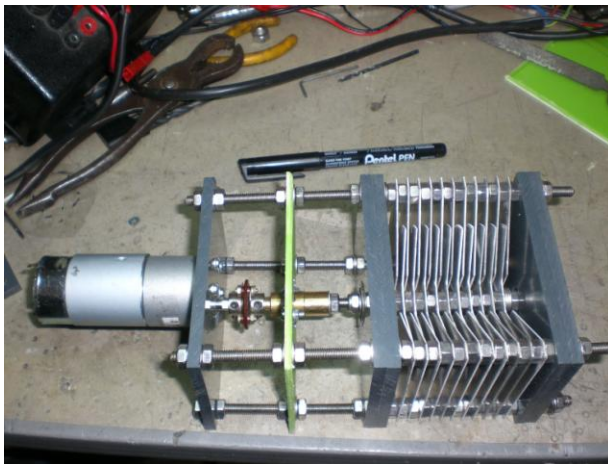


On the Antenna front, I have constructed a Magnetic loop over the last few weeks. I made the butterfly Capacitor, and got it working for the 11th Nov Ladder.

A friend cut the Capacitor plates for me with a Water Jet using 60,000 PSI of pressure! It covers 14 thru to 30Mhz with SWR of better than 1:1.5 on all bands.



I worked Erkki on 20m, and got 589 on my Long Wire, and then changed to the loop. He then gave me 579. Which I thought was very good, considering the loop was hanging from the ceiling fan inside the shack!!



I have since motorised the capacitor, and now just need to box it up, weatherproof it, then relocate outside.

Next job is a larger loop to cover 160-30m, and I recon that will be about

4metre Diameter. A bit on the large side!

It was nice to get on air on Xmas day. Not many stations about, I suspect many amateurs were too full of Xmas Pud!

I'm looking forward to 2012 as I can start the Ladder at the beginning of the year. Probably on the bottom rung!

So Happy New Year to ALL Fists members.

Best Regards

Geoff G0DDX Fists: 15552.

Hello Geoff, good to hear from you and many thanks for the report, and news of your new construction project,

I'm sure that G3ZOD would be pleased with an article on the build for Keynote! I'm a fan of small transmitting loops, although many amateurs find them less than palatable. I would enjoy reading about your efforts with a top band-30m build if it gets off the ground!

-oo0oo-

Uncle Dick, SV0XBN writes.

Dear Nephew,

Last effort . . .

No too good as too many other demands on our time this past few weeks . . .

Still, the total for the past three months is very apt!

Best QSO of the month: EN20UARL.

Caught him when he first called CQ on his first day. Had a five minute chat as I had worked Serge before using his own call. Nothing more than abt 16 WPM and swapped all the usual stuff. Much better than those who just want '599 73 and who called him later

Cheers es Thanks for running the Activity.
All the best for 2012 es hope to catch you on the bands sometime.

73..

Uncle Dick.. SV0XBN/9

Hello Uncle.

Good to hear from you again.

It's been a busy time for many during December.

Glad to hear that you've enjoyed the event.

See my comments at the end of this offering.

-oo0o-

Peter, G4LHI reports on his ladder activity month.

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim & report for December Activity Ladder.

Quite good conditions on the bands this month, for the first Sunday at least but unfortunately I got dragged away for a family Xmas dinner on the 25th so was not able to be active for the last session for 2011, but I do hope there was a bit of activity & it will

be very interesting to see if I have lost the top spot while I was enjoying a good Xmas dinner??

I only used the usual bands for the Ladder, 40M being my main activity, just dear Erkki on 20m & Graham & Derek on 2m.

All my thanks, as ever, to members, future members? & non members, the stalwarts of the Fists Activities that are always there. I do like the Ladder for the opportunity to chat with the non members & hope to persuade them to join our Club one of these days? Think I may have persuaded one guy at least to join us? You never know.

For this month I only had 9 QSO's for 17 points, so hope conditions continue to improve for the New Year & we can enjoy our Fists Activities.

Looking forward the new activities calendar Rob has produced & meeting up with a few of those new members that have joined recently together with all the regulars.

Keep bashing the brass & good hunting to you all, & a very Happy & Healthy 2012

73 de Peter G4LHI # 2219

As ever Peter, many thanks for your report and round
up.
-oo0oo-

From Piet PA3AFF.

Dr Robert,
Here my last FSA and Ladder log of this year (month
December).
Haven't been that active this month again.
Score FSA 67, Ladder 12 with both evening sessions.
Want to wish you and all Fists a happy 2012 with lots
of DX! Good luck with the new activities.
73 PA3AFF, Piet #445

Hello Piet.

Glad you've enjoyed the activities over the past 12
months. I look forward to hearing from you in 2012.
-oo0oo-

From Phil, M6PHL

Hello Rob,
Here is my final log for 2011.
It was great to work all those who took part in the
Ladder throughout the year and I hope we see more
members submitting logs in 2012.

With new members joining all the time I hope new and existing members find time to take part.

For those just joined and perhaps consider themselves beginners in the art of CW, the Ladder is a great way to improve those skills, it has helped me enormously since I started learning CW just over two years ago.

See you in 2012 using my new call sign 2E0DPH.
A happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year to you all.

73 Phil M6PHL Fists 14543

Hello Phil.

Your comments I hope will encourage and give confidence to newcomers of the mode! Pleased to hear that you've enjoyed the year on the ladder and other activities. I look forward to hearing from you in 2012 with 2E0DPH. Guess all will be lining up to get the new call in the log Phil.

-oo0oo-

From Graham 2E0JYK

Hi Rob,

I think I may be a tad early with my log but not many people about on Christmas day.

I did work Phil, and a warm welcome to Geoff G0DDX who I worked for the first time on the ladder at the beginning of the month.

One of these days I shall get around to working you Rob but I have a lot to learn yet.

Anyway, hope you have a good Christmas.

I wish you all the very best for the remainder of 2011 and wish you all a very happy new year and a better 2012.

Regards.

Graham 2E0JYK #14822

Hello Graham.

Never too early with the Log.

Always a pleasure to receive your entry. I look forward to receiving your entries during 2012.

No matter how much you have to learn regarding CW. Every contact you make with CW is a learning experience, and there is no substitute for this.

All members will be pleased to take time with you, we all had to learn. Every amateur and ex professional who embraced the art of CW had to start somewhere!

I do hope that our paths cross on air during 2012.

-oo0oo-

From Nao JO3HPM

Hello Robert,

Thank you for your management during 2011. I really enjoyed this event.

This year, I am trying the Prefix Award. I hope to see you on the air.

73 de Nao

Hello Nao.

I'm very pleased that you've enjoyed, and took part in the event.

-oo0oo-

Some awards news, kindly supplied by G3ZOD.

-oo0oo-

FISTS Awards

Congratulations to the following members:

Ian G4MLW, #130, Silver Century and Millionaire

David KB9MLE, #13933, Millionaire 3 Million Sticker

-oo0oo-

Its time to look at the final results table for 2011.

Firstly the ladder.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	POWER
G4LHI	28	37	34	20	34	23	23	39	31	41	32	17	359	QRO
OH7QR	27	27	19	22	26	19	22	36	31	40	19	26	314	QRO
M6PHL	20	25	28	15	29	23	30	34	22	26	21	14	287	QRO
PA3AFF	13	8	10	17	16	17	7	18	17	18	16	12	169	QRO
M0DRK	0	22	19	10	16	14	10	10	5	20	13	14	153	QRO
2E0JYK	10	12	12	0	19	14	12	14	10	12	4	10	129	QRO
G3ZOD	5	18	18	4	6	12	1	12	17	12	16	0	121	QRO
G0DUB	4	16	17	11	0	17	4	13	16	10	6	7	121	QRO
MX5IPX ©	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	16	24	8	0	66	QRO
G0DDX	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	8	16	19	57	QRP
G0BAK	9	24	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	QRO
2E0TEK	17	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	QRO
IK2RMZ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	16	QRO

G4LHI has had a commanding lead in the ladder over the year, but OH7QR and M6PHL have chased him all the way. All have put in commendable scores over the year. My thanks to all entrants.

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On to the FSA results.

Again G4LHI has dominated the FSA over the year.

IK2RMZ and OH7QR have pushed him all the way.

Many thanks to our members in

FISTS EA and FISTS NA for their efforts during the year.

CALL	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTALS	CLASS	FISTS
G4LHI	362	302	390	1054	A	EU
IK2RMZ	183	197	507	887	A	EU
OH7QR	290	270	300	860	A	EU
DK0AG/DK3UZ	0	0	696	696	A	EU
JO3HPM	174	97	69	340	A	EA
PA3AFF	78	46	67	191	A	EU
DK3UZ	0	0	159	159	A	EU
G3ZOD	46	37	16	99	A	EU
MX5IPX(c)	54	22	0	76	A	EU
SV0XBN/9	55	5	13	73	A	EU
K4UK	11	18	0	29	A	NA

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Finally, after a bumper edition of BP, my thanks to all who found time to support the activities during 2011.

I do hope that the 2012 calendar is well supported by members old and new.

-oo0oo-

I have taken on board comments made by members regarding the demise of the FSA.

I did say at the beginning of this offering that I had suspended the activity till at least 2013.

Owing to the comments received. I promise that I will look at the possibility of a condensed version to run in the latter half of 2012 which will I hope be of interest to the membership.

If I receive positive feedback to this suggestion, I will look at the idea once again.

-oo0oo-

Once again, many thanks to all who have taken time to send in an entry, and who have taken time to write a report. Without you, there would not be an activity calendar.

-oo0oo-

A happy, peaceful and prosperous 2012 to you all.

73

Keep well, keep pounding brass.

MOBPT.