

BRASSPOUNDER

February 2007



For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge

Welcome to the February edition. I managed to put in a brief appearance on the bands during February, but the aerial system is a cobbled together temporary affair and is not as efficient as it should be. My apologies to those who called me and did not get a reply.

A few words regarding the QRS Challenge. Welcome to Janet MM3WZL #12573. Janet has joined the class 2 section (QRP+) and is the YL of John, GM4WZL #12515. And is the only class 2 entrant thus far. I've been surprised by the lack of interest in the QRS activity, I know from feedback by the participants, that it is an enjoyable activity, but, with the lack of support from the membership; at this moment in time, I'm considering removing it early from this years activity calendar. Obviously certificates will still be awarded to the participants should I decide to do this.

Very pleased to hear from Buck, G00YH who's let me know, and others via the FISTS NG. His operating times and days for his stints in the GB2CW chair. They are;

Tuesday evenings commencing 20.00UTC on 7.028

Wednesday evenings commencing 20.00UTC on 7.028

I'm hoping to have the complete national schedule posted on the homepage as soon as possible. please check back to see if anyone is providing the service in your area!

As promised I've some more images of "Members behind the keys" That is, of course, people who participated in the activities during 2006 and kindly sent in an image of themselves with their awards for you to know who you've worked during 2006. It'd be nice for any other readers, participants to send in an image of themselves for us to view.

First to join the "Rogues gallery" this edition is Stan, K4UK, winner of the 2006 G3ZQS Award.



The rigs in the picture include the Ten-Tec Scout, Elecraft K2 and Ten-Tec OMNI 6 that I used during 2006 for the contacts I made for the WARC Band Challenge.

Also a close-up picture of the Award in front of the K2 - which is the rig I used most during the year. It is the rig I'll be using this year running QRP.

The second person to join the "Rogues gallery is Martin, IK2RMZ.

Martin achieved second place in the WARC Challenge.



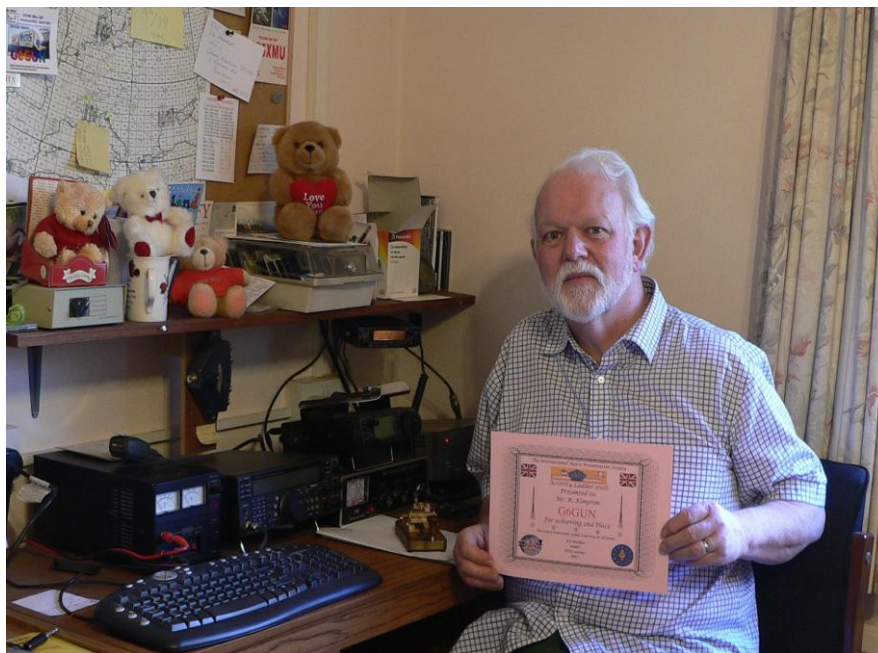
Martin told me that he'd enjoyed the FISTS activities during 2006. But by far he'd enjoyed the WARC activity the most.

Next to join the gallery is our good friend and supporter of FISTS activities, Erkki, OH7QR.



Erkki is pictured with his "Mixed power" certificate. most of Erkki's contacts made during the WARC were with QRP 5watts.

Last person, but certainly not least to join the gallery for this edition is Bob, G6GUN. Bob managed second place in the 2006 Activity ladder. Here he is pictured in his well appointed shack with the award.



Lets have some more images of members to publish in Brasspounder. It's always nice to be able to put a face to the call.

Lets have a look at this months "Postbag" which of course, would not exist without your comments and band reports.

Firstly, from Janet, MM3WZL joining the QRS Challenge this month.

HI Robert,

This is my first attempt at your post code Challenge, The 40 MTR Band was very noisy today at night time I had a go on 80 and it was noisy to but the signals were a lot better. I was using John, GM4WZL's rig @ 10 watts in to the GM00NX Inverted L Ant. I had tried my other radio, the ft857d and G5RV But it wasn't any good, the signals were down to the Inverted L by a lot of S points, It was all good fun and I will try for the next one.

73 From Janet MM3WZL NR 12573.

Welcome Janet, pleased you've joined us and a very respectable score for your first entry, I hope this is going to create a little friendly rivalry between yourself and John! Perhaps you'll be the recipient of an award certificate for John to admire!

From Peter, M5ABN.

Hi Rob,

quite pleased with this months activity. Managed to keep in front of that old rascal Peter G4LHI, serves him right for teaching me CW Hi.

Looking forward to the March activities.

73 for now. Peter M5ABN #6423

From Peter, G4LHI. Who has some points this month regarding members who are active during the on air sessions but do not bother sending a log...read on.

Hello Robert,

Attached my effort for Feb. Ladder, great fun again, a few more members joining in, I do hope that some of them that just come up to kindly give us points put a claim in other wise it will not give you a true picture of the activity because there were a lot that I worked during the other sessions not claimed. I see that my pupil, Peter M5ABN, has managed a few more QSO's than me again, he said it was my fault for teaching him so well & I must learn not to rag chew so much on my QSO's hi hi. But I am very pleased for him & only wish a few more were as keen. I thought you might like to know that I have at last managed to obtain the "WORKED EUCW AWARD" I received my Certificate Nr 102, dated 9 Jan 2007, for this Prestigious Award, which I have been collecting for since 1996, I claimed for the Award in November 2005, but with the various illnesses etc of the Officers of the EUCW & with the help of Tony G4FAI & Joe DK7VW, it was finally sorted. Sorry did not hear you if you managed to get on the air, but did work Mark this time, with GX2HDF

Peters comments about the members who do join in but fail to send a log are very valid indeed. The table then does not give a true reading of the members who are active during the sessions. It would be good if they sent in a log!!

On behalf of you all I'd like to wish Peter Hearty congratulations on receiving the "Worked EUCW Award" Again, this reflects the amateur spirit and his tenacity in working for nine years to achieve this certificate. Well done Peter!!

For more details of the requirements of the award, visit;

<http://www.agcw.org/eucw/eucwa.html>

Stan, K4UK tells me that it's a lot different using QRP in this years challenge, but, nevertheless is still amassing very healthy scores. He is spending some time in Florida but is taking his K2 and a dipole and hope to be operational from there time permitting. Who knows, you may have worked him by the time you read this! He tells me that he was pleased to work Marco, XE2S #7985 on 30m, and had a 36 minute chat with Jesse, WS0L about antique morse keys! Your QRP is working well
Stan!

Harry, KA3NZR tells me that he's enjoying the activity and hopes to be more active during the later months, he's juggling with studying for a licence upgrade and playing radio.

Incidentally, Harry tells me that he spent seven and a half years here in the UK, at Harrogate, Yorkshire. And that he copies his CW down to a typewriter, a remnant of his military career! Good to have you on board Harry, and we all wish you success with your licence upgrade.

From Peter, G4LHI

Hello Robert,

That was a short month hi, only seems like a few days since I sent you my Jan WARC Claim.

Regarding my WARC Band activities for Feb., not quite as good as Jan, I thought the band conditions were improving a bit but were not as good as I thought they might have been but enjoyed the "challenge" as always. Very nice to see three new state side members joining the challenge in Jan, not managed to work any of them yet, still not any new UK members having a go in January? & Many thanks to those that have given me points in February & hope to see some of them on the list in your Feb. report. For my 6 Fists Multi squares for Feb. I was pleased to add David, VK3DBD. Rob, M0TIX. & Mike, G0CHV, to my 2007 claim & new squares, Fred, G4VHH. Paul, GW0TAU & a nice DX from Paul ZL4PW, many thanks guys.

Nice to see paths open to VK and ZL Peter.

You'll notice when you look at the February tables that we've had another entrant to the WARC activity which is very pleasing because its a FISTS NA club station. Welcome to W4FCR #7007. They are going to be operational on the WARC frequencies during 2007 so hope you'll listen out for them. Welcome aboard and I hope you'll be listening for them!

It would be very pleasing if other FISTS affiliated clubs would become operational on the WARC Bands.

I've received some information from a new member, who kindly sent an image of himself, his grandson, Joseph. (A budding amateur) No doubt a "Chip off the old block"

Welcome to Steve, M0ETY FISTS#12574.

Hello Robert. I returned to the hobby about 5 years ago and got back my original call (G6NVX) but have since updated to M0ETY. I took early retirement - an excellent move - and now have much more time for hobbies - mainly computing, photography and of course Amateur Radio!! I enjoy morse (thanks to patient tutors) and working with friends in the hills around the town as /M. QRP is also of great interest and last summer I worked on 5 watts from central France having many interesting European contacts. - my first contact from Poitiers was a station in Accrington - down the road from my home QTH. The photo of myself was taken at Barnsley FC. My eldest son arranged for us to have a tour of the club on Boxing day last year. I have included some photos taken of the Leeds and Lancashire canal in Burnley centre. And my Grandson, Joseph, a budding radio operator.



M5ABN is holding the 1st place in front of G4LHI, but with G6GUN active I see the ladder positions changing throughout the year.

Finally, the WARC Activity.

WARC	Totals 2007															
CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	MULTI	MASTER	PWR
F2YT	431	575											1006	70	70420	QRO
K4UK	55	99											154	33	5082	QRP
G4LHI	149	131											280	16	4480	QRO
IK2RMZ	106	73											179	16	2864	QRO
OH7QR	59	68											127	14	1778	QRO
W4YE	26	28											54	6	324	QRO
K4ORD	4	20											24	7	168	QRP
KA3NZR	5	24											29	5	145	MIXED
2E0TEK	16	0											16	2	32	QRO
W4FCR©0	2												2	1	2	QRO

F2YT is still producing excellent returns so far. As is K4UK with his QRP operation. G4LHI, IK2RMZ and OH7QR are very closely placed together, I'm expecting positions to change throughout the year. W4YE, K4ORD, and KA3NZR are also closely placed together. This only being the second month of the activity, it is anyone's game in all the categories!

As ever, thanks to all who support the activities.

Finally, A few words from me wishing John, M0CDL (Membership secretary and Treasurer) A speedy return to health. John endured extensive surgery very recently. I'm pleased to relay to you all that the procedure went well, and he's now back at home in convalescence. Here's wishing you a speedy recovery John!

73, Keep "Bashing the Brass"



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