



Welcome folks to the September issue and again many apologies for the lateness of publication. I was away the first few weeks on a French trip and then last week just catching up!! I shall make this reasonably short so that it gets out to you, but I'm not too worried as you've had another excellent KN to read as well this month.

Graham and I had an email from Martin DL1GBZ recently but he made the text into a PDF and sent that as an attachment. Graham and I deleted it so it took some time before it was read. Please, if you send us emails, make them look like real emails!! I will not open PDFs unless the body of the email looks VERY much like it's pukka! Anyway, Martin says this...thank you Martin for the super feedback.

*Hi Graham and David,*

*This is my report concerning MKW. First of all, congrats for the organization I really enjoyed the event. Before it started I did store my paddles in the cupboard in order not to fall into temptation. The overall result is that I had a lot of fun and I enjoyed the unusual mode of operation.*

*As I know CW events that fall short of being called a "contest" - I did not subscribe to illusions about the number of participants. When reading the rules, the non-contesters think "gee, this is a contest" and testers start reading and cry out "gee, this is not a contest".*

*In practice, I was using a Kent pump for the cq calling by the left hand and a Junker for the slow contacts plus a bug (crafted by the late g3hge) for the contacts at moderate speeds. I understood that cq calling is the only way to be heard, any s+p is bound to create nothing but boredom.*

*I admit that my attention was not undivided, on Saturday, I tried to look for "Churches On The Air" (chota as organized by wacral.org). The list of churches was impressive but 40m is a bit too overcrowded. Eventually I worked a church in Hastings and I heard one more from England and one from Scotland. My ambition was not to try and leave empty handed. So many churches in the UK made the effort to get a GB call from*

*ofcom. Moreover, I felt being obliged to give out a few points in the SSB W.A.E. contest. I think it was my first fone contest ever to send in a log. It is the major German dx contest, and for several reasons I was the only one in my local DARC chapter to have time. The local needs the extra points for the internal ranking of clubs. It was a nice experience but this is not really for me. Barefoot with wire antennas is nice for Morse but a quite hard for ssb. I hope that others will do this job in the future. I stay with cw.*

*In the MKW, the first observation was that the cardinal hours did not work. Not even once I perceived an increase of activity and I gave up soon and went on air whenever I felt like being on air. The fists I heard were all quite good, some had a typical swing but none deserved any criticism for poor cw. Moreover, there was just a single incident of deliberate qrm, probably from a militant qrp fanatic that feels compelled chase away those that come too close to an uncoordinated beacon on 3555.5 A bitter pill was rather the geomagnetic storm on the 2nd Monday with a planetary K-index of 7. After it 20m was almost a total loss here and 40m suffered from qsb. It's also bitter that very few Fists members were in my log.*

*FLC was lovely and it understood the adif tag about my keys perfectly well. I admit (shame on me) that I would have loved the FLC to enter the FISTS numbers magically but I understand that this is not done for educational reasons. I expected this and tried to download a member list but I did not find one on the web page of the British web page. There was one on the American page though.*

*My wish would have been to allow 30 meters as well, provided that the necessary measures are taken to avoid the smell of contesting. The only way to avoid this stench is not to define what has to be exchanged. It is good enough to specify what has to be logged. 30m is precious even between stations on the British isles. The no skip zone of 20m is always an obstacle. Given the low number of participants, it is worth to consider the idea to join all mechanical keys for all activity weeks of this type. Bug alone and Straight key alone is under the critical mass, isn't it? Did anybody see the unicorn using a fully automatic mechanical bug? I didn't.*

*Finally, the best of it all is that quite a few contacts turned out to become rag chews, even guys over 80 showed a tremendous perseverance to use mechanical keys even for half an hour or more.*

*Well done, both of you.*

*73, Martin, dl1gbz*

Some good comments Martin. The cardinal hours is one I also note...I try to use them but see little uplift. Still, it's not a functional part of the activity so we can live with it maybe.

As to 30m, I fully agree we should use it but several other members of FISTS argue strongly against. I argue that as we aren't a contest at all we can use it. As you rightly point out, there is no reason we shouldn't have simple activities on that band and we do!! We have had 30m and 60m activities for last few years and they worked well. No doubt they will be repeated.

#### Social aspects of radio

In the latest KN Rob, MOBPT points out that radio has become a solitary affair and this is quite so from my perspective too. I had many friends locally with whom I would natter and share the ups and downs of operating and building etc. Sadly, most are now SK and a few others have left the area which means that I am rather on me tod. I do have friends here of course and some are into radio, but not in the same way and none are into CW. As a result my own enjoyment has fallen to such an extent that this, along with band condx, has caused me to sell my main FTdx101MP and soon my hex beam too. I have the K2 which is in use and I have just worked IZ4IST, Mauro, but frankly, the joy is much diminished.

The club I used to belong to seems moribund and with age related dislike of night-driving I am not prepared to drive an hour or more to another club. The days of many amateurs in the town are gone and we have no FM 2m repeaters (curse CTCSS!!!). I sit for days on end with 145.500 in listening mode and hear nothing. My own CQ's rare now, are usually unanswered and don't even speak of 144.300. (Curse the demise of Class B!!). Frankly I sit here some days and wonder why anyone would join amateur radio ranks at all! It seems to me that whilst the RSGB et al are putting effort into 'spreading the word' a lot of it is aimed at digital and computers. Maybe this is what newer generations want, but it is not what amateur radio is about surely? Is amateur radio about sending an electronic email to someone or is it about sharing the love of radio (*amateur* does come from *amor*, to love!).

Anyway, as they say on antisocial media...rant over!

Right, that's it.

Off to press....

73 for now

David. G4YVM, F15868

### New Members

Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.
Corey	N3CAA	#23038	Gary	KJ5GWV	#23052	Derek	N3XDM	#23066
Scotty	W7SW	#23039	James	W6JSV	#23053	Nikos	SV3TPS	#23120
James	VE3LTN	#23040	Jared	W8JFL	#23054	Jon	EI5JTB	#23121
Kevin	KD9DXT	#23041	Michael	N3MT	#23055	Chris	G7LQX	#23122
Andrew	KK7VCP	#23042	Justin	N9HO	#23056	Michael	G0NMQ	#23123
Jeff	KG5EED	#23043	Robert	KV3M	#23057	Annas	M0GQA	#23124
Ken	W0YRE	#23044	William	W5OXL	#23058	Jim	G3VDB	#23125
Douglas	KD5DBP	#23045	Steve	KD5SBP	#23059	Will	GW4LWD	#23127
Brian	KC9HEK	#23046	Shawn	KA3NBN	#23060	Bob	MW0RHD	#23128
Gene	K4EL	#23047	David	WW4WWW	#23061	Frank	M7LLB	#23129
Temple	WT4DX	#23048	Don	W2DON	#23062	Mike	2E0KCU	#23130
James	NE5TX	#23049	Michael	N4CGR	#23063	Adi	VU2AFL	#23140
Chris	VA3CJW	#23050	Volker	KQ4GPE	#23064			
Andrew	AJ7CM	#23051	David	WB2RNC	#23065			

### Awards

Name	Callsign	Member	Awards
Rien	PA7RA	#9819	Millionaire 21 Million Endorsement
Nathan	KF9LI	#12351	Millionaire 12 Million Endorsement Prefix 50 Endorsement
Enzo	M0KTZ	#20979	Rag Chewers
Simon	G0FOZ	#21903	Millionaire 5 Million Endorsement
Ron	K9ID	#23024	Basic Century Prefix, Prefix 50 & 100 Endorsements

## Mechanical Key 24 Hour Sprint – August 2025: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Simon G0FOZ	Again more of a saunter than a sprint here ;-) Key in use was a HiMound BK100 Bug switching to a Kent straight key for a QRS QSO. 73 Simon
Alan MW0BGL	Attached is my submission for yesterday's Mechanical Key Sprint.  Very enjoyable activity.  73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my Mechanical Key Sprint log. My key was The Swedish Key. Tnx and 73 de Erkki OH7QR
Norbert ON4ANE	Hello David, my log for this event! 73 de Norbert ON4ANE

## Mechanical Key 24 Hour Sprint - August 2025: Results

Callsign	Position	Points
MW0BGL	1	23
ON4ANE	2	22
G0FOZ	3	9
OH7QR	4	8

## Straight Key 24 Hour Sprint - August 2025: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Tony G3ZRJ	A lot of fun huge contest QRM
Fabrizio IU0AHC	Used a straight key, type Marconi 213. 73s, Fab
Pete M5ABN	Limited time but enjoyable, 73
Alan MW0BGL	Please find attached my submission for the Straight Key Sprint on August 16th.  73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my SK sprint log. Tnx and 73 de Erkki OH7QR
Norbert ON4ANE	Hello David, low activity on the bands, also very few lighthouses worked! enjoyed the event! 73 de Norbert ON4ANE

## Straight Key 24 Hour Sprint - August 2025: Results

Callsign	Position	Points
IU0AHC	1	27
MW0BGL	2	18
ON4ANE	3	17
OH7QR	4	6
G3ZRJ	5	5
M5ABN	6	4

## Bug Key 24 Hour Sprint - August 2025: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Simon G0FOZ	Rather a busy day so only a couple logged. Hope to do better next time. Using a brand spanking new Begali Intrepid - what a silky smooth key! 73 Simon
Ciemon G0TRT	Bugs really are a whole lot of fun, and roll on the September Sprint!
Tony G3ZRJ	A lot of fun Domestic madness limited hours but good to hear many bugs in use 73 Tony
Chris G5VZ	Enjoyable on a day with difficult conditions - several nice natters!
Fabrizio IU0AHC	Used a semiautomatic "bug" original vibroplex from 1914. 73s, Fab
Alan MW0BGL	I've attached my entry for the sprint which took place on August 31st.  Unfortunately, the sprint coincided with the Telford QRP rally/hamfest which I attend every year. Hence, by the time I got home and had something to eat etc, the activity was all but done.  I did however, manage to get three entries in the log the last of which was a nice rag chew with Mary, G0BQV.  73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my Bug Key Sprint log. My key was Vibroplex bug. Tnx and 73 de Erkki OH7QR

## Bug Key 24 Hour Sprint - August 2025: Results

Callsign	Position	Points
IU0AHC	1	41
G3ZRJ	2	12
G5VZ	3	9
G0TRT	4	6
OH7QR	5	4
MW0BGL	6	3
G0FOZ	7	2

## Ladder August 2025: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Jean F6JOE	Good fun ! 73 Jean F6JOE - 16177
Jean-Jacques F5IJO	Not very radio active this month! Jean-Jacques - F5IJO FISTS#17008 LICW#5902
Simon G0FOZ	Great to meet you all in the ladder although bank holiday weekend sessions seemed to be slim pickings. 73 Simon
John G0UBE	A long at last, The band Gods were kind and gave me 10 QSOs that day. 6 in the afternoon for the Ladder.
Tony G3ZRJ	A lot of fun odd conditions on 24th made 14 MHz unusable thanks for qsos 73 Tony ZRJ
Robin G4DNP	A good daytime session for my QRP/QRS signal and thanks to contacts for patience. 73/72 Robin
John G4YTJ	Nice to work Les MM0UMH on the 24th it's been a while since I've worked him. Condx were definitely better on 24th, in the evening I'd got my 5th QSO in the log in the first half hour and then it all dried up taking the rest of the session to get another two contacts. It wasn't condx changing, more a shortage of stations to work!
Steve M0SHM	Great fun as always with better condx on the first Sunday. Apologies for the late log entry.
Pete M5ABN	Only able to enter on the 10th as away for the second session, poor conditions though. 73 Pete
Alan M7TSM	Thanks for the QSOs.
Alan MW0BGL	I've attached my ladder entry for this month. Despite not always favourable conditions, always nice to QSO with other members especially regulars on the ladders. 73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my Ladder log. Tnx and 73 de Erkki OH7QR
Norbert ON4ANE	Hello David, my log for the ladder! 73 de Norbert ON4ANE



## Ladder August 2025: Results

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
M5ABN	1	1	-	562	78	63	72	78	67	86	60	58
MW0BGL	2	3	↑	446	54	65	72	51	63	55	33	53
ON4ANE	3	4	↑	425	52	63	54	57	54	49	49	47
G3XVL	4	2	↓	413	69	83	63	52	69	65	12	
G0FOZ	5	5	-	360	6	39	59	45	49	71	57	34
M0PBZ	6	6	-	302	49	57	60	33	51	52		
G3ZRJ	7	9	↑	264	35	69	64				32	64
G4YTJ	8	8	-	262	33	18	46	42	18	36	21	48
M0SHM	9	7	↓	261	33	45	36	33	36	27	21	30
M7TSM	10	10	-	204	22	21	27	33	33	21	21	26
OH7QR	11	11	-	201	23	39	18	28	24	13	31	25
MM0UMH	12	12	-	179	38	62		29	22	22		6
F6JOE	13	14	↑	157	27	12	33	21	18	16		30
2E0DPH	14	13	↓	137	42	63	32					
G4TJE	15	15	-	106	16	26	33	8	8	8		7
PA0SIM	16	16	-	96	30	27	24		15			
G0DFC	17	17	-	90	42	30	18					
G4DNP	18	19	↑	72	19	12	10	6	12			13
G4TPJ	19	18	↓	66	33	9	24					
G4KKU	20	21	↑	54	6		6	18		6	6	12
G4YTK	21	20	↓	45	9	21	3	6	6			
DL6NAN	22	22	-	37						37		
G0UBE	23	26	↑	36			22					14
G0JHK	24	23	↓	34	34							
SQ9S	25	24	↓	28	28							
M0MCL	=26	25	↓	24	24							
OH2BN	=26	28	↑	24					12	6		6
M0KBJ	28	27	↓	19		19						
G3PCL	29	30	↑	18				3	6		3	6
DL3GJ	30	29	↓	17		1			16			
F5IJO	31	31	-	6		3	3					
EI2KA	32	32	-	3		3						
M0YRU	=33	=33	-	1		1						
M7YRU	=33	=33	-	1		1						

## Upcoming Events

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### September 2025

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 28 Sep		<a href="#">FISTS Ladder</a>	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC

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### October 2025

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Wed 01 Oct		<a href="#">ICWC Top 9</a>	24 hours each day UTC
		<a href="#">Quarter 4 season</a> starts	
Sun 12 Oct		<a href="#">FISTS Ladder</a>	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
Sun 26 Oct		<a href="#">FISTS Ladder</a>	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC

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### November 2025

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sat 01 Nov	Sun 02 Nov	<a href="#">RSGB 2m CW Marconi Contest</a>	1400-1400 UTC
Sun 09 Nov		<a href="#">FISTS Ladder</a>	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
Sun 23 Nov		<a href="#">FISTS Ladder</a>	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC

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