



Dear FISTS

Welcome to this the August scorcher edition! I hope the summer is treating you well and that the wonderful warmth is helping the creaking bones rather than causing you grief. I'm certainly used to this now, the warm but cool-er mornings and the delightful long evenings, eating outside, a sit in the garden under stars and not shivering. Wonderful stuff indeed.

I wonder if you are noticing that the drying land I causing propagation changes? It probably should be doing so, but whether you can detect it is another matter. I say it probably should be because we all know that an aerial over wet land radiates better than one over dry. And now all the land is dry...

Talking of stars I managed to see the eclipse and also quite a few of the Perseid visitors.

For the eclipse I eschewed the commercial glasses and instead made my own smoked glass in a way that Newton, and Morse would have done and almost certainly did, being men of inquisitive minds like wot us FISTS is. Or is that 'am'?

I first got my glass, a piece about A5 in size from an old picture frame, then I lit my candle - home made of course, from beeswax - and ran the glass through the flame many times. The result is a wonderful dark glass with a totally black matt finish. The carbon soot permits optically perfect viewing of the sun. Great fun but what amazed me more was the number of people who saw my glass and asked, 'did you make this?', as if making anything these days is a complete mystery. How some people live beats me.

I remember the last eclipse – or I think I do - when the RSGB sked us to operate and send in quite time-specific reports. Did you do that then? Did you do it tis time? I did do it back then and the results were interesting at the time but I would be lying if I said I could remember what I found. Anyway, fun at the time. If you did something similar this time do let me know what you found please, we'd all be intrigued.

I guess the Perseids are of more amateur interest - anyone manage to use them on VHF?

FISTS is 40

Next year is our anniversary year, 40 years of FISTS, so you can expect a few activities based on that. Is anyone activating a SES callsign? No doubt these days (sarcasm alert!!) you could probably get G4FISTS40THANNIVERSARY. Try sending that a few times after CQ!! However, if you are getting a callsign, or have one in mind, do let me know what you're up to and I'll publicise it in the newsletter. Also send details to Key Note of course.

FISTS presentation

In November I am delivering a FISTS presentation to Roger Cooke's club and would value your input. If you have old FISTS photos or stories, or anything relating to Morse (the man or the mode) that others would like to hear, please email me.

Activities request

Simple question...is there anything you'd like to be run again?

That's all from me, keep up the good work.

73/88

David G4YVM

New Members

Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.
Michael	WB2INZ	#23334	Daniel	KM4NLG	#23340	David	M7ISL	#23431
Dylan	KE2ICI	#23335	Terry	KF8EID	#23341	Sean	M7YSF	#23432
Darin	W6PUG	#23336	Douglas	WR7O	#23342	Steve	G0UTN	#23433
Joseph	KR4HGB	#23337	David	AC7DD	#23343	Martyn	G4PTP	#23434
Benjamin	K1NT	#23338	Tom	W0DXF	#23344			
Ron	N7BBQ	#23339	Marcus	W4BD	#23345			

Awards

Name	Callsign	Member	Awards
Silverio	IU0ITX	#19676	Gold Century Millionaire 6 Million Endorsement

Bug Key Week 2026: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Alan MW0BGL	Please find attached my entry for the July Bug Key Week activity. Unfortunately I wasn't able to partake as much I would have liked due to family commitments. Vy 73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my Bug Key Week log. Tks and 73 de Erkki OH7QR

Bug Key Week 2026: Results

Callsign	Position	Points
MW0BGL	1	64
OH7QR	2	10

Bug Key 24 Hour Sprint July 2026: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Simon G0FOZ	Busy day so only one in the log but it was a lovely bug-bug chat. Alternating between BK100 and Intrepid. 73 Simon G0FOZ
Alan MW0BGL	Please find attached my (somewhat "thin") entry for the July 15th Bug Key Sprint. 73, Alan Mw0bgl 16507

Bug Key 24 Hour Sprint July 2026: Results

Callsign	Position	Points
MW0BGL	1	5
G0FOZ	2	1

Mechanical Medley July 2026: Results

Callsign	Position	Points	BK Jan	MK Feb	SK Mar	BK Apr	MK May	SK Jun	BK Jul
MW0BGL	1	71	15	15	19	14	1	2	5
ON4ANE	2	43		9	20		10	4	
G4BFG	3	32	16	16					
M0XCV	4	19		19					
G0FOZ	5	17	11		3		1	1	1
G3XVL	6	14	4	10					
OH7QR	=7	10					6	4	
G0UBE	=7	10			4			6	
M5ABN	9	8					4	4	

Key: BK = Bug Key Sprint, MK=Mechanical Key Sprint, SK=Straight Key Sprint

Ladder July 2026: Comments

Entrant	Comments
Jean F6JOE	Tnx QSO, 73 Jean F6JOE - FISTS 16177
Simon G0FOZ	Nice to meet up with the regulars and even nicer to hear some new FISTS I have not previously worked on the ladder. 73 Simon G0FOZ
Paul G0OER	Note my F/ callsign - hope this doesn't jam up the system!
John G4YTJ	A poor entry this month.
Kevin M0MCL	See attached my log sheet for the July Ladder. Best Regards, Kevin M0MCL, #20982
Pete M5ABN	Log for July, looking forward to August. 73 Pete
Alan MW0BGL	Please find my entry attached for this month's Ladder sessions. Afternoon conditions on both the 12th and the 26th were something of a challenge. Matters did improve in the evenings however, enabling me to have some very enjoyable QSOs including a nice Rag Chew with M0TWA (David). Thanks to all stations who worked me during the ladders. 73, Alan
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, please find attached my Ladder log. Tks and 73 de Erkki OH7QR
Norbert ON4ANE	Hello David, condx not good in the afternoon, more activity in the evening session 73 de Norbert ON4ANE

Ladder July 2026: Results

Callsign	Pos'n	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
MW0BGL	1	1	-	352	40	64	55	50	38	53	52
G0FOZ	2	4	↑	346	49	55	16	50	60	50	66
M5ABN	3	2	↓	334	39	60		64	61	59	51
ON4ANE	4	3	↓	329	43	43	47	49	45	54	48
M0MCL	5	6	↑	232			43	42	60	51	36
M0SHM	6	7	↑	208	36	31	18	27	33	33	30
G3XVL	7	5	↓	203	61	68	41		18	15	
OH7QR	8	8	-	151	14	21	18	24	34	23	17
2E0YEM	=9	9	-	127	38	16	17	18	13	19	6
G4YTJ	=9	10	↑	127		36	27	18		39	7
G3EEC	11	11	-	115	47		14	54			
F6JOE	12	12	-	106	15	6	18	12	25	12	18
MM0UMH	13	13	-	86	9	32	5	8	14	12	6
G4TJE	14	14	-	84	31		26	13		9	5
G4KKU	15	=15	-	76	18	6	9	21	9	6	7
G0UBE	16	=15	↓	69	9			26	10	24	
G3ZRJ	17	17	-	49				24	25		
G3JRH	18	18	-	39	12	27					
G0DJA	19	19	-	32	19	13					
G3PCL	=20	21	↑	27	9	3		3	3	6	3
G4TPJ	=20	20	-	27	24		3				
G0OER	22	23	↑	21			15				6
M9PHL	23	22	↓	18		18					
G4DNP	24	24	-	14		10	1		3		
G0LLX	25	25	-	12				12			
M5ACT	26	26	-	6					6		
DL3GJ	27	27	-	5					3	2	
DF7CW	=28	=28	-	3						3	
M0YRU	=28	=28	-	3				3			
M9YRU	30	30	-	1				1			

Upcoming Events

Note: To use FISTS Log Converter for the most recent additions to the on-air activities, please install [version 4.9.4](#) or later.

July 2026

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Wed 01 Jul		ICWC Top 9 Quarter 3 season starts	24 hours each day UTC
Wed 01 Jul		EuCW Snakes & Ladders summer/autumn season starts	24 hours each day UTC

August 2026

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sat 15 Aug		FISTS Mechanical Key 24 Hour Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 23 Aug		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC

September 2026

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Tue 01 Sep	Wed 30 Sep	FISTS European Tour 2026	24 hours each day UTC
Sun 13 Sep		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
Tue 15 Sep		FISTS Straight Key 24 Hour Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 27 Sep		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC

October 2026

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Thu 01 Oct		ICWC Top 9 Quarter 4 season starts	24 hours each day UTC
Sun 11 Oct		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC
Thu 15 Oct		FISTS Bug Key 24 Hour Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 25 Oct		FISTS Ladder	1400-1559 UTC, 1800-1959 UTC