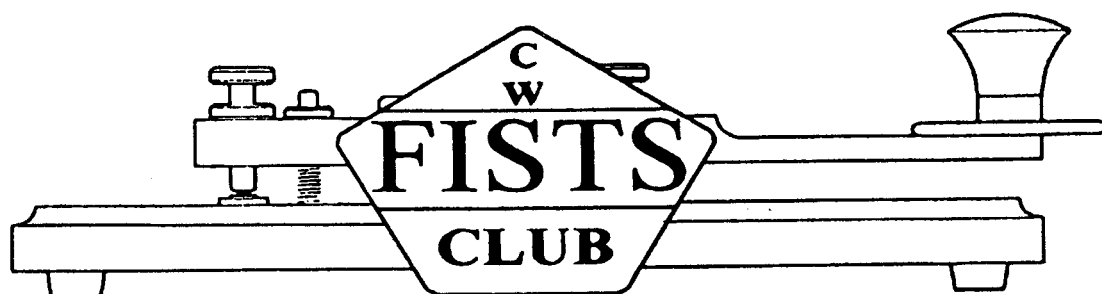


The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club
The active chapter of the International Morse Preservation Society

“Accuracy Transcends Speed”



Our Goals:

Further the use of Morse code

Engender friendships among members

Encourage newcomers to use Morse code

“When You’ve Worked A FISTS, You’ve Worked A Friend”

HOW DO I...Info on How to do just about anything related to FISTS

HOW DO I GET AN APPLICATION OR A SAMPLE NEWSLETTER SENT TO A FRIEND? You can download a NA membership application or an application for DX on the FISTS web page. Information and an application can be mailed to you. Email Jim at aa9ls@turbotoads.com with your name, call sign, and postal address, or mail the request to Jim at 33778 Rebecca, Kingston, IL 60145-8121

HOW DO I GET A NUMBER FOR MY LOCAL CLUB? Clubs with FCC call signs may be assigned a FISTS number at no charge if there is at least one FISTS member in good standing in the local club. These clubs are not legally affiliated with FISTS, nor does FISTS have anything to do with how the club is run, etc. It just means the club has a FISTS number worth three points toward awards. If the club wants a newsletter, there is a \$15 a year charge.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO RENEW? Your renewal date is on your mailing label - please look at it! ONE renewal postcard is mailed out when your renewal time is near. If you've sent in your renewal but get a reminder postcard within a few weeks, please don't be concerned, the card probably crossed with your renewal.

HOW DO I RENEW? Send \$15/year or \$10/year for college students (under 17 and family members are free) to FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440. or to Paypal using the email address fists@tir.com. Put RENEWAL in the comments section.

HOW DO I UPDATE MY ADDRESS or CALL SIGN ON THE FISTS DATABASE? Send corrections or changes to Nancy Kott, WZ8C, at FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440. Please send labels with your corrections to the FISTS QSL Bureau so the bureau workers don't have to change all your SASEs by hand.

HOW DO I GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBER LIST? Send a SASE with \$2.00 (US) to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview, WA 98632. Lists are available on the FISTS Web page.

HOW DO I JOIN THE FISTS EMAIL LIST? For periodic Email updates send your Email address, call sign and FISTS number to fistelist@comcast.net. Due to potential spam problems, the list is NOT given out to the membership and is NOT published on the web page. It is ONLY used to notify you of FISTS items of interest. If you want people to know your e-mail address, we recommend you include it in your listing on QRZ.com or Buckmaster lookup service.

HOW DO I ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene W08E (44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038) has; Metallic Gold logo stickers, 200 for \$3.50...I "red heart graphic" CW Stickers, 3/4 inch round stickers, \$3.50 for 200...Blue enamel cloisonne/gold metal "FISTS CW CLUB" logo pin, with tie-tack type pin back 1" x 1 1/8" octagon \$1.50...White enamel cloisonne pin "I (red heart graphic) CW" and "FISTS CW CLUB" along edge. 3/4" diameter circle and tie-tack type pin on back \$1.50. Embroidered Cloth patch of our key logo, \$1.00 each (The cloth patches can be sewn or ironed on)

*****Please make checks out to FISTS*****ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. PLEASE DO NOT ADD POSTAGE TO YOUR TOTAL***** PAYPAL TO FISTS@TIR.COM*****

HOW DO I GET FISTS SHIRTS? Show the world that you are proud to be a KNOW CODE Ham by wearing an "I'm PROUD to be a KNOW CODE Ham" T-shirt and sweatshirt. or a FISTS logo polo shirt. The front of the t-shirts and sweatshirts are printed in silver with I'm PROUD to be a KNOW CODE Ham and the backs of the shirts are printed in light blue with the FISTS key logo graphic and Join the Code Crusade. The T-shirts are available in two solid colors: black or royal blue (a medium blue, not navy) Sweatshirts are gray with royal blue printing on the front and back. The polo/golf shirts are sky blue with the FISTS key tastefully EMBROIDERED on the top left side. They are short sleeved and have a knit collar and have a couple buttons at the neck. Sizes are small, medium, large, XL, XXL, and XXXL. All shirts are 50/50 blend. The T's are "Best" Fruit of the Loom. Sweats are 5.8 oz Jerzee and Polos are Fruit of the Loom.

FISTS CW CLUB

THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

EDITOR:

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Hi FISTS! I have been visiting a few different hamfests in Michigan this season and it has been great to see so many FISTS there. If you are having a hamfest and would like some sample newsletters or brochures please let me know. I'd be happy to box them up and get them out to you. We always have a few hundred left of each issue for that purpose. If we have any pens, pencils, keychains or other goodies left over from Dayton, I'll enclose those also.

That reminds me - if anyone can't make the hamfests but would like to get one of the FISTS "trinkets" we pass out at them, send me a SASE with a couple stamps and I will send one to you. It's not fair that those of you who can't make Dayton miss out on everything! Be sure it is an envelope that can safely hold a pen, pencil, or keychain and has a label and postage with it - I don't want to add to my workload by having to dig up envelopes and address them! One or two isn't a big deal, but when we're dealing with thousands of potential requests...this is already a full time job and I am not looking for "overtime" hi hi.

There is a point I would like to clarify about Club numbers. If a club has active (meaning paid-up dues) FISTS members in it, it can get a FISTS number for its FCC issued club callsign. This makes a contact worth three points. It doesn't cost anything for the club to get a number, because it doesn't receive a Keynote, which is where most of the subs money goes.

This does NOT mean the club is "affiliated" with FISTS in the sense that FISTS has anything to do with how the club is run, how much its dues are, or requires a certain percentage of members to belong to FISTS. It doesn't obligate the club to anything. It is simply a "club with a FISTS number."

If a club earns an award, there is no charge for the certificate, but a green stamp or some postage stamps would be appreciated since it does cost us to send your club the award.



Welcome to the New FISTS

I regret that I messed up the alignment of the names on the new member listings after #11100 in the last issue, so I'm reprinting them here with the right names. They aren't lined up in rows in this listing, but imported directly from my listing program, so there is less chance of error. The other way I had to import each field separately, then line them up. Hope this isn't too objectionable, because it is much simpler and faster.

Number	Call	Name	State	Sponsor
11101	WA8YCD	BOB	WV	
11102	K5PCA	PERRY	NM	
11103	K0IM	WES	MN	
11104	K7TP	GROVER	CA	
11105	N5DY	JACK	OK	
11106	WA4VJC	BOB	GA	
11107	KU2US	KEN	NY	
11108	WA8TWS	PAUL	OH	
11109	WD8IOL	JAMES	OH	
11110	KI7V	JOHN	AZ	WB2FXK
11111	K8RBW	DICK	IL	
11112	NH7D	BEN	HI	
11113	W6SQL	MARC	CA	W7IB
11114	W4ALJ	RON	GA	K8JP
11115	KG4WOY	BOBBIE	TN	N4KCJ
11116	WB5GYB	JERRY	OK	
11117	VE7ALQ	Yakov	BC	
11118	WJ4SR	JACK	GA	
11119	W9TO	JIM	IL	
11120	K0EMC	JAMES	NE	K1RMF
11121	KG7FS	RICH	MI	W7QM
11122	N9ZXW	DAN	AZ	
11123	WA5AUR	HOWARD	TX	
11124	KC8YZA	JIM	MI	AA9PB
11125	VA2FFF	QUEBEC FISTS	ARC	QC
11126	K9EW	ED	IL	
11127	KG4WVD	RON	VA	
11128	WB4REX	CHARLIE	GA	
11129	KC8YDU	MARK	MI	N9ILV
11130	NI5JF	NELSON	TX	
11131	KA8RXW	LEE	OH	
11132	N2LJD	JOE	NY	
11133	KB4LCI	DAVID	VA	
11134	WB2NVS	LLOYD	NJ	
11135	AA4CF	CHARLIE	GA	
11136	KD5ZCL	KEN	LA	
11137	WA2DGV	ALFRED	NY	
11138	K4SKY	STEVE	AL	K4NVJ
11139	KE6RIN	MARI	CA	
11140	KB3HBD	SANDY	MD	
11141	KI4FZP	DON	KY	
11142	KC0PPH	KEITH	CO	
11143	WA6QKN	DENNIS	FL	
11144	AD4AX	ED	VA	
11145	WB9DLC	Mike	IN	
11146	KG4QXT	BOB	TN	W8YRB
11147	N2NRA	CLIFF	NY	N2QFD
11148	W0ATT	CHUCK	MN	
11149	W7CSX	JIM	WA	
11150	WA4UXJ	CENTRAL KENTUCKY	ARC	Kentucky
11151	K6DGW	FRED	CA	KG4CNZ
11152	VE4GS	GORD	MB	WS0L
11153	K5YEM	BILL	TX	
11154	KC9EQC	JON	IL	KE3CR
11155	N4JED	DAVID	VA	K4UK
11156	KG4YUV	PATRICK	GA	
11157	N1NAD	RANDY	ME	
11158	KZ8G	STANLEY	MI	ZL2AOH
11159	W9BEL	Bill	FL	
11160	AF4JF	HERBERT	MO	
11161	KC9AEW	VIC	IL	
11162	WB4ZOH	KEN	VA	N4GSD
11163	AE6HH	MARK	CA	
11164	N9JYJ	JOHN	WI	WB9FXK
11165	AG8A	RANDALL	MI	
11166	NO CALL YET	Noelle	MI	WZ8C
11167	K8JRO	JERRY	MI	
11168	K8CCE	DUANE	MI	WZ8C
11169	WA8JNM	TOM	OH	
11170	WB8GUS	DON	MI	
11171	AB6MC	BOB	AZ	
11172	KB1KOU	TOM	NH	
11173	WA8YGP	WILSON	MI	WZ8C
11174	WA3BKD	ART	PA	WB2FXK
11175	K3AU	South Shore	ARC	Maryland
11176	W4IO	DAN	FL	K2YWE
11177	KB4UUA	Dorrain	FL	N4LMI
11178	(no call yet)	BOB	CO	

11179 KI4GLH DAVE TN
 11180 KG4SPA TONY FL
 11181 W8OKN SEAN MI
 11182 K8HJI BOB MI WO8E
 11183 N8YAD BEN MI WO8E
 11184 AI4FR JOHN FL
 11185 AB7NQ DAN AZ
 11186 KC8WZO MIKE MO
 11187 W9IL LOU IL
 11188 KD8AWN DAWN VA K3XI, K4CCW
 11189 K1IK ALBERT VT

Silent Key

Mike Branca, W3IRZ, became a silent key at 0300Z (2300 EST) Monday, September 29, after a long illness.

He passed away peacefully, with his wife, Caroline, Son, Michael, sister, Leonora and her husband Sam holding his hands. For the past few days he has been in hospice care in Atlanta, and did not suffer.

I once said that the way you go through the boneyard at Dayton is to > take Mike with you—it was like taking along your own private museum curator.

By Grace, I was given the opportunity to spend a lot of time with Mike—and he was my elmer in every possible sense of the world. He constantly gave to others. He was a prolific writer, appearing in such > publications as the “QRP Homebrewer,” “QRPp,” “CQ,” Letters to the Editor of QST, the “NOGA Compendium,” and the “QRP Quarterly”—most recently, his Differential-T Tuner appeared on the cover of the Summer, 2003, issue.

Sadly, there were some ideas and projects that he was never able to share with others, but if you’ve ever built a W3IRZ design, you’ve built a piece of real amateur radio gear. If you wish to send RADIOGRAMs expressing your condolences, you can address them to Caroline Branca, care of my station, Mike Boatright, KO4WX 1013 Latham Road Decatur, GA 30033 404-325-3139.

Silent Key

Moe Leblanc, VE1QJ, passed away on June 21.

Moe was known as a terrific CW op and Elmer and was active in the RAC field organization.

(from Bob Block W2SR)

Silent Key

Regarding my husband, Marvin Wm. Gustafson, KA7MGM, Extra Class: He took great pleasure in using CW, and was very proud of his association with FISTS as well.

On October 13, 2003, sudden cardiac arrest took him. He is now a Silent Key.

S. Marijane Gustafson
KA7TJU #3941, General Class

Silent Key

I regret to inform you that KA7MGM became an SK (from Clark WA7NBU)

Silent Key

With great regret, I have been asked to advise you that Dr. Robert W. Greenfield (#6544) (WA1HSZ) passed away on March 3rd. If you need further information, please contact me. Walt Treftz (N4GL)

Hurricane Reports

This may be "old news" but the hurricane season isn't over. Stan, K4UK, received this letter from Josh 6Y5WJ describing the situation after the hurricane hit his QTH in the Caribbean.

Stan Old boy, Thanks for your concern and to be honest I'm glad I've got a few minutes to send this email and let you know that all is OK with us here. I know that you were aware of the past hurricanes Charlie and Ivan. Well, Charlie was a strong one that dumped over 10 inches of rain on us and caused widespread flooding. Several people lost their lives and helicopters had to rescue people from their roof-tops.

Ivan was a devastating hurricane that passed on the south side (where we are) and literally flattened anything in its way, including antennas of all kinds, even the commercial ones.

It started early on the 10th of September in Kingston and lingered for 24 hours moving along a path 60 miles south of Jamaica at only about 8 MPH. Wind speeds for the outer wall (50-80 miles) was measured at 160 MPH with higher gusts.

With my weather station information I played a small part on 14.325 the HWN but battoned down when wind speeds started to exceed 80MPH, just before homes had their roofs ripped off and flung up to half a mile away. Vegetation, including large trees were uprooted, and torn to shreds. Power line poles 20 inches in diameter were snapped like matchsticks and livestock were found pinned to rocks and trees with their skins torn off.

We were extremely lucky, we suffered superficial roof damage but flooded out in three rooms. I bailed at least 150 gallons of water from one of the three bedrooms as water cascaded down the walls. Our outside walls were stripped of paint and anything that was not nailed down was flown away.

The aftermath saw all roads blocked either with debris or fallen trees and the PM called a state of emergency. People are only just coming out of designated shelters to find their homes gone. It will take a very long time to recover from this one and people are already bracing themselves until the end

of the hurricane season, which should end some time in November/December.

Bear in mind hurricane Jeane and Karl are both out there developing towards Puerto Rico and there are predictions for at least another 9 more heading into the Caribbean basin.

I thought our house would not survive Ivan being perched on the south side of the Santa Cruz mountain range and very much open to high winds and adverse weather conditions. However, there's a hill directly behind and to the east side of us that gave some shelter. Our only structural damage was to one end of the "Decra Tile" roofing that we have, where one end started to lift and let in water. Had the storm continued another hour or two, the roof would certainly have gone west.

Anyway, we are safe, dry and not hungry, although food is fast becoming short, because the electricity was turned off island wide, due to the danger of the fallen lines. We do have our electric generator but we are hopeful that in a few days, the mains electricity will be switched back on. The same goes for the land line phones and although cellular phones were a great help during the storm, they're only now getting back to normal.

This is an experience I don't ever want again, not for me personally so much, but for those that emerged from the shelters to find nothing left of their homes and livelihood.

Well that's the report for now Old Boy, I'll wait for your reply and in the meantime get back out there helping those less fortunate. Take it easy Josh 6Y5WJ

PS: I'm back on air with the generator, but only with a G5RV and then only for short periods.

Contest Suggestion

Perhaps FISTS could have a marathon, like from 0000 UTC one Saturday to 0000UTC the following Saturday. Even being retired, I don't have the time to operate a contest during the afternoon on a Saturday and I suspect this is a fact in many households. It would be something to do in the evenings when things sort of settle down for the day. 73 Bob K8FN #2455

QRP with K3WWP Column # 65

This month I'm going to introduce you to a brand new QRP club. I can hear you saying, "Not another QRP Club - there are enough of them already." Don't turn the page just yet - this is a club with a DIFFERENCE. First of all, it's FREE, so the price is right. Secondly, it doesn't fool around with all these fancy digital modes, nor does it bother with any voice modes. It's a QRP CW club - all club activities, awards, etc. are done only with CW.

Interested? I hope so. The club was started by a friend of mine here in town whose ham radio interests almost exactly mirror mine. In other words, he enjoys ham radio using CW, QRP, and simple wire antennas. He is KB3LFC, and he will be joining FISTS soon. Perhaps by the time this is published, he will be a member. He was active as a QRP CW operator up through the early 90's, then lost his station in a fire. That kept him off the air till early in 2004. That's when he got an HW-9 and became active again. We got acquainted when he called me one day and wanted to do an article in the local newspaper about my ham radio activities. Our friendship grew from there.

One day he mentioned he was thinking of starting a QRP club. I guess my very initial reaction was "Not another QRP Club - there are enough of them already." However he explained this was going to be a club with a difference. The part about it being a CW only club hooked me. I joined up and said I'd be willing to help him out in any way I could.

Let me tell you just how this is a UNIQUE QRP club. One of our goals is to promote activity on the lesser used CW bands. Our first weekday evening sprint was on 80M which, as you know, has steadily declined in CW activity over recent years. We will be doing the same kind of things on other lesser-used bands in the future.

We are particularly sensitive to those QRPers who are restricted to using simple antennas, and don't have the room or the desire to erect huge antenna arrays to boost their 5 watts transmitter output by many DB.

The club offers awards like WAS, DXCC, WAZ, 1000 MPW, etc. The difference is the con-

FISTS CW Club

tacts must be made using what we define as simple wire antennas. Anyone earning these awards must really do it with skill and not with a greatly increased ERP from a huge antenna farm.

That logically leads to our attitude towards contesting. It is unfair for the QRPer with simple antennas to compete against the QRPer with the big antenna farm. So many of our contests will have two separate entry classes, one for simple wire antennas, and one for the fellow with the big antennas. This will give the simple wire antenna ham a chance to actually win something in a contest.

When I told Stan, K4UK about the club in a QSO last night (Oct 31), he mentioned something about the club doing some kind of QSO per day thing. That really excited me, and I quickly drew up plans for a new QSO A Day Award. It is based on making either one QRP CW QSO per day for each of the 365 days in 2005, or making multiple QSO's per day for shorter periods of time like 1 month, 4 months, etc. Final details are still pending as I write this column.

Basically the club is only in its infancy, and we've got a lot of growing to do. Membership has increased rapidly, and after 3 weeks of minimal publicity, we have 202 members in 39 states, 3 provinces, and 9 countries.

Oh, the club will also be having on-air CW learning events like a slow speed net, tentatively on 80M on Thursday evenings.

I guess I haven't given you the name of the club yet. It's the North American QRP CW Club (NAQCC). The president and founder is Tom, KB3LFC. I'm more or less, the VP. We don't need a treasurer since as I mentioned, it's a FREE club. In fact Tom's motto for the club is "No Dues, Just Do".

You can keep up with the club news either on my web site or on the club site at <http://www.qsl.net/kb3lfc/>. I hope you'll join us and enjoy doing some different things than you would expect from a QRP club.

See you next issue. Contact me via jsk3wwp@alltel.net, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201 or my web site at <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/>. 73 -30-

What Would You Say? Responses

I am not in the habit of writing to magazines or newsletters. However, I thought I would throw in my two cents worth in response to "What Would You Say to These OM?"

I can understand how they feel. Recently a Ham posted a request for help on QRZ.com. I posted a response and he graciously accepted my help. The e-mail I received from other Hams shocked me. I can only describe it as hate mail and do not understand why.

I have been a Ham since the mid-1950's. Had I let every rude, inconsiderate, obnoxious Ham get to me, I would have quit long ago. You will run into these personalities in all phases of life. Ignore them and go on.

As for the Ham who said, "Go to the Novice bands slow boy," he has forgotten he wasn't born knowing Morse. I am sure there were many along the way that helped him. I wonder why he ever joined FISTS. My father would say, this individual has an inferiority complex. He feels the only worthwhile thing he has accomplished in his life is his proficiency in Morse. By putting less accomplished Hams down, he boosts his self-image.

By the way, you are doing a great job.

73 No name (Do not want any more hate mail)

Regarding FISTS members #9223 and #6738 and their concerns expressed in Issue 4, I sincerely hope that they will continue despite the actions of some operators. I have heard that ham radio operators are quite nice and helpful and my experience to date (I have been licensed for 11 months) is that they certainly are. I wish that these two FIST would reconsider. I hope to meet them in the ether some day.

One another note, I passed my Extra class license exam yesterday! Whew! I was pretty worried about it, especially since I have a mind block of some kind about electricity & electronics is even worse - I passed a college course in electrical/electronic engineering in the late 1960's ONLY because the professor refused to fail anyone! Persistence compensates for ability!, 73, Chris Walter KI4CBF.

I would like to address this to all FISTS Members:

I remember having a similar experience right after getting on the air with my Novice Ticket. I had reached a level of about 10 to 12 WPM and always looked forward to any stations I could find in the Novice Portion of the bands. One day I sent a CQ at what I thought was about 10 WPM and I got a reply at about 15 WPM. I had a difficult time in securing a call sign and replying still at what I thought was about 10 WPM. The other station still came back at a fast rate and I could not copy but a few words. I signaled QRS and was rewarded with "I am sending at the same speed you are sending. If you want to slow down, then send at your rate of 7 WPM" I sent: QRT and SK and broke off the QSO. I wrote in my log in the comment section "Jerk". I was pretty bummed out and stayed in the Novice Bands Only answering people that had the same speed as I had. Shortly after that, I moved to another state and a new job and I sort of gave up my radio interest. It wasn't until I moved back to TN that I got back into the groove again.

Recently I have been trying to get my code speed up so I could run with the BIG DAWGS and found it very difficult. That is until I found a code course that starts teaching the code at a character speed of 20 WPM. I recommend that the Ham that wrote the letter should try this: Jerry Ziliak's Radio School High Speed Code Course, 2350 Rosalia Drive, Fullerton, CA 92835 Tel: 714-990-8442.

He starts teaching characters one at a time and when you have a few characters he makes words to emphasize the character you are learning.

I am 75 years old and it has been a great spurt to my increased code speed and I would recommend that the unhappy Ham try this rather than sanctions on hot shots that think they are so superior to the rest of us. Mr High Speed needs to run into a 35 to 40 WPM operator and get a dose of the same medicine.

Sincerely

Bob Hagstrom, W4CJD #6746

In the latest Keynote you asked how we would answer those two letters. I don't have one for either one, but it why I am trying to get my confidence and speed up for those reasons. Right after I got my Extra I heard one Old Timer say that he wasn't going to slow down for anybody. He felt that if you are in the Extra part of the band then you should be able to operate comfortably at 20+ wpm.

I joined FISTS a year ago (#10355) because I wanted to take part in the Code Buddy Program. I had not worked any code in about 20 yrs and even back then I wasn't comfortable with it. I had one friend that I used to meet up on 10 mtrs and we would talk CW. I got to where he and I talked at about 25 wpm, but I couldn't copy anybody else. (Never have figured that one out.) Anyway, I discovered about 3 yrs ago when I decided that I wanted to start working on code that I needed to have letters sent to me at about 16-18 wpm before my brain would even begin to translate them. I also found that there were only about 6 letters that I couldn't remember. Not bad after being away for as long as I had. Anyway, I got a code buddy, but we clashed. He was used to working with newbies who knew nothing or very little. He insisted that I get a straight key and a simple radio. I have a Bencher paddle and two radios, a Kenwood TS-870 and a Yaesu Mark V. He didn't like it. I tried to explain to him that I needed the letters sent to me at about 15 wpm, but to slow the word speed down to about 12 wpm. He either would send to me at 5 wpm or 20 wpm. We fought for a little over a month before he threw in the towel and told me I was on my own. I had just gotten to the point where I was just about ready to try a QSO with somebody else, but when he dropped me what little confidence I had went out the window.

I got another code buddy back in February, but I had paddle problems and had to order a new one. He was taking classes to become a nurse. His studies took up much of his time, so about mid April he dropped me because he had his classes and labs. I have just not gotten in touch with Nick again. Maybe in another month or so. I'm listening to my code program trying to build my speed up before I tackle another code buddy.

Over all I have been a bit disappointed with the way things have progressed. Many people have New Years resolutions to loose weight. Mine is to get comfortable with CW. Know what? My resolution has been just as successful as the loosing weight has been for many people and like them I keep trying. I hope one day to succeed at it.

Bob

KB4CL

I for one will continue my membership with FISTS. Since becoming a ham in 2001 I have been working hard to improve my cw skills and have thus far only reached the 15 to 18 wpm and I'm still having to hand copy cw. There are times that I to can become frustrated when trying to QSO with those faster operators. But thus far most have always QRS for me or have at least given it a good effort. I realize that for them to slow down is also frustrating for them. Having put so much effort into learning and training myself, I for one am not about to give up. By the way I am self taught, using computer programs, tapes, Code Buddy and listening to other QSO's. And I started out the wrong way and had to retrain myself.

I to have ran across some who have little patience for us slow pokes but I have come across more who have worked with me showing patience and encouragement. I feel these are the ones, who like me just love this mode of communication and know that for some it just takes time and practice to improve.

I would like to thank the FISTS club for all they do and my code buddy Dennis Sweigert K3DEN for all the encouragement. I will continue to practice and look forward to working anyone who wants to learn no matter what your skill level is.

So my response would be, don't let a few negatives run you off from a mode of the hobby that is so much fun, challenging, and yes frustrating. But yet so rewarding when you do get it right and meet a fellow CW'er on the air. Best of 73's,
Butch Perryman, KD5RSS FISTS#9905

Stealth Antennas for Small Spaces

If trees are well located near the shack window, run nr 14 PVC insulated flexweave wire to a branch, then over higher (hopefully) branches. I've been using 100 feet of polyurethane insulated flexweave and no one in my condo has noticed it. Works well on 80. It really is too low at 25 feet at the highest point and 15 feet over most of the length. However I manage to cover the east coast from Canada to Florida and into the Midwest. (In summer I need an amplifier for the more distant stations) I manage to pass traffic- which is a real test.

I'm moving to a new condo and will use 170 feet of #14 PVC insulated flex weave over tree branches. The pvc insulation is thinner than polyurethane and the wire is less noticeable. At the new place I hope to have the wire up over 35 feet. Small increases in height make a big difference since the added height reduces ground warming. In addition I have 2 balconies which extend a total length of over 30 feet. A 20 meter dipole for 20 through 10 will go there. That one will be pretty low but worth a try. Also, they now allow small satellite dishes on balconies. So there shouldn't be any problem with "discreet" vhf antennas. (And discreet wire antennas for the upper low bands.)

If you have no trees then try just hanging a wire out of the window. Indoor antennas work but should be the last resort due to ducts etc., which will sop up RF.

However, DO NOT ASK. The answer will almost always be "no".

Another thought about which a newcomer should be warned: Random end fed wires require external tuners. The internal tuners in the new rigs are only good with antennas which are approximately resonant. Occasionally an end fed wire will load with the limited range internal tuners, but that's by chance.

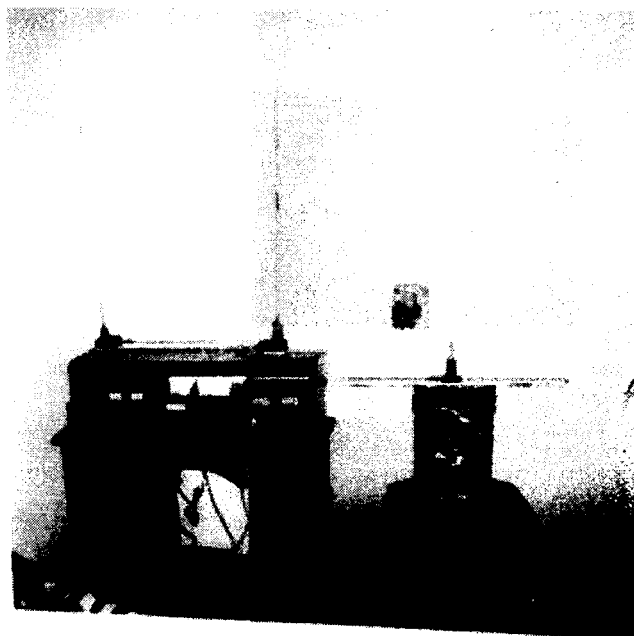
We moved here from Newark NJ in 2002 where I had a large house on a large lot with room for whatever antennas I wanted. When my son was looking for a place for us he asked me what I wanted. I told him, "any place with good antenna trees". he knew what those were since we had never

gone any place where I didn't walk around looking at where I would hang wire antennas if I lived there. In the case of invisible antennas, you need a tree near the house so that there is no long visible span from the house to tree nr 1. Then from there a clear span to a grove of trees. That way your hurling device has a clear shot to some high branches. Don't be afraid to settle for less.

73,

David K2VX

Sorry about the quality of the text in the next photo, but I couldn't get them separated! It says "This was my 4-band FM setup at one time. Then I had a 6,2, 222, + 440 module. Antennas on left is for 222. The middle antenna is 2/440. The one on the right is for 6 meters. What a setup! Don W5AJX



Nancy

This was my 4 band FM setup at one time. Then I had a 6,2, 222 + 440 module.

Antenna on left is for 222. The middle antenna is 2/440. The one on the right is for 6 meters.

What a setup!

73's

Don W5AJX

#4261

Hi, Nancy: I read the letters from hams suffering from HOA's and limited space (Page 14, Issue 4 2004). I was especially sorry to hear that Glenn, K1ES, is off the air because of an HOA. The ARRL has a book called "Stealth Amateur Radio" that's an excellent treatment of this situation. I encourage these guys and anyone else with this problem to pick up a copy. While I don't know their situations completely, there are indoor stealth antennas that can be strung up around an apartment with only a random length of wire.

I found that these work very well with an antenna tuner.

In fact, I've had great luck with 40-50 feet of number 16 speaker wire run around my small apartment and out a window and into a tree. A few radials cut to a quarter wave on the bands I'm operating run along the baseboards as a counterpoise and tie to the ground on the tuner. I've worked across the US on 40 and 20 meters, and even as far as Argentina with 60 watts. I've listened to stations from as far away as the Far East and Middle Europe. And I live at the base of a hill, an area where, if you don't have cable, you only watch two tv channels. I've even read where some hams have gotten really stealth, running some real light gauge wire (about #24) out on a balcony and disguising it with vines.

Of course, when operating with an indoor antenna, always take care to stay within safe limits for RF exposure. I hope this helps, Nancy.
73.....Joe...WB6UDO

.....

I was very disappointed to read comments (issue 4, 2004) regarding Hams throwing in the towel because they could not erect an outdoor antenna. It is a shame that so many Hams think that they need a big outdoor antenna to enjoy this hobby. Nothing could be further from the truth, my own experience has proven otherwise!

Here is some information about my antenna system: The antenna is 100 feet of 14 gauge insulated wire (from standard house 3 wire) strung around my attic. It is attached to the rafters by TV

twin lead standoffs. The shape is a rectangle bent into an inverted V matching the contour of the roof. I feed it with 300 ohm TV twin lead via an MFJ-949e tuner from the tuner's UNbalanced port by-passing the 4 to 1 balun. At both the feed point and tuner ends I have the feedline looped a few times through 2 split ferrite beads to reduce unbalanced feedline currents. This is OK with parallel unshielded feedlines (I got the idea from M. Walter Maxwell, W2DU's excellent book "Reflections Transmissions Lines and Antennas", 1990). With the tuner I can tune all bands down to about 1.1 to 1 except 160 meters. This setup works very well on 10, 12, 15, 17, 20 and 30 meters. So-so on 40 and 80 meters. Very poorly on 160 meters. I believe that, while the SWR on the line between the tuner and antenna feed point may be sky high, the losses are not too bad (the feedline length is about 25 ft long total).

I've used this setup at 2 QTHs with good success. At another QTH I used only 50 ft with fairly good results. **I've been running 5 watts QRP exclusively for about 30 years and this antenna has been the best overall.** I'm a casual operator, getting on the air when I find extra time ... maybe 2 hours a week averaged over the last few years. I work about 1 out of 4 or 1 out of 3 stations that I call. I very rarely ever call CQ ... it just hasn't worked for me over the years. I don't usually bother with pileups but listen for CQs or follow after a QSO finishes up. I'm currently working mostly DX, maybe 50% of my QSOs are DX.

I first built this antenna for my 2 story townhouse attic (50 ft version). I then moved temporarily to a 3 story house and used 100 ft laid along the floor of the 3rd floor which wasn't used during the winter. When I moved to my current QTH, I used the same setup in the attic as a temporary antenna. Even though I now have enough land to build a nice outdoor antenna, I haven't bothered to do so in the 7 years I've been here since it works so well! The nice thing about having the antenna in the attic is that I don't worry about the WX, it is always dry and never moves!

I worry a little less about lightning too. One drawback is the antenna's close proximity to radios, TVs, etc. I interfere with the bedroom radio and get RFI from the HVAC system. The HVAC RFI is particularly bad on 12 meters ... my thinking is that the ductwork is resonant at that frequency! Both of these RFI problems would probably go away if I had an outdoor antenna.

Please pass on this info if you think it would help. Maybe it'll inspire someone to give an indoor antenna a try. I did and have been very pleased with it. Every antenna is a compromise but ANY antenna is better than NONE! If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me at WA2RVT@arrl.net or at 109 Astor Ave. Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234.

Thanks for all your effort in support of FISTS, Jeff Kostiuk, WA2RVT, FISTS #5688

.....

I would suggest an End Fed Resonant Dipole running at the angle of the walls and ceilings in his apartment with only the transmission line part in the 'shack'.

Come to think of it; I will send him a postcard - I'll take a few weeks before he gets it. Anyway this gave the opportunity to send you a word. 88 Gery VE2KRM kd6fxw@arrl.net

.....

Hello. In one of the issues, you requested some information on hidden or restricted antennas. I live in an antenna restricted area, and have put together a webpage explaining what I use. Even though it is not the best antenna, it works. The address is: www.qsl.net/n8tw/index.html. Feel free to pass it along. Thanks and keep up the good work. Ted, N8TW, FISTS #3386

Ted has some terrific information on his antenna system, I urge you to take a look at it. - WZ8C

My Personal Quest for the FCC Commercial Radiotelegraph License

Robin A. Gist, K4VU / V31RG FISTS # 10956

For most of my life, I have been interested in getting a commercial radiotelegraph license. When I was a young ham growing up in the isolated sticks of Alabama during the late 1970's, I had romantic notions of seeing the world through the eyes of a shipboard radio officer. Visions of passing traffic on 500 kHz late at night from a dimly lit ship radio room, and visiting exotic ports-of-call occupied my dreams — much in the same way that most kids my age dreamt of fast cars and sporting achievements.

But those dreams were put on the backburner, as I entered college, graduate school and pushed myself into more commercially promising endeavors as a software engineer and architect.

As we entered the digital communications age, the need for radiotelegraph operators waned, and the practical value of CW — as far as the commercial world was concerned — diminished. Nonetheless, I still coveted the FCC Commercial Radiotelegraph License, which had long been established as the first step into the maritime communications arena.

In early 2004, I suddenly found myself heading up a small group of amateurs who were quite disturbed by the ARRL's amateur radio restructuring proposal. This group became known as the Radio Amateur Foundation, and after several weeks of work, we submitted our somewhat lengthy proposal for rulemaking to the FCC. Part of our proposal was the elimination of public question pools, with the argument being that the current testing system only measured how well a person memorized questions and answers, and did not accurately measure an examinee's mastery of the required subjects as required by international law.

When the proposal went public, I was inun-

dated with email – both pro and con – with one actually threatening my life.

But the main argument against our take on public question pools was that there were too many questions in the pool, and that there was no way the average examinee could memorize enough of them to pass the examination. However, I knew better. I had majored in psychology as an undergraduate, and emphasized my coursework around testing and test construction.

I knew that exposing a subject to the actual test material beforehand would (in most cases) render the measurement result of the test administration invalid. But without the budget to actually fund a valid experiment, I found myself in the position of making my case non-scientifically. But there were no more amateur examinations for me to take – I had passed the Extra in front of the FCC in 1980 (when, incidentally, I was almost hit by a MARTA bus as I excitedly ran out of the federal building into a busy Atlanta street).

While stumbling around the FCC website, I noticed that the Commercial Radiotelegraph Permit was still being issued. For the Second Class Radiotelegraph Permit, there are three elements and a total of some 1200 questions in the pool – many more than for any amateur element. Since I had passed the Extra many years ago, I wouldn't have to take

the 16 and 20 wpm CW elements of the examination – my old ticket was enough proof for credit. Suddenly, all of my childhood dreams rushed through my mind, and I realized that I could finally get that coveted commercial license, and prove my point at the same time. I was up for the challenge.

At the same time, my fiancée of two years was putting the clamps on me to tie the knot. She had recently aced the Technician examination – if for anything, just to make me happy. Only half-joking, I told her that if she learned the code and passed the General exam, we'd get married.

I emailed the local VE, who also happened to be approved for administering commercial examinations, to arrange our sessions. When the VE finally replied to me, he was puzzled as to why I would want to “waste my time” with a radiotelegraph examination. “Wouldn't you rather have the GROL (General Radiotelephone Operators License)?” I told him that the Commercial Radiotelegraph was something I had always wanted to do, and that its value was strictly personal.

The ham – a somewhat bitter, CW-loathing individual – begrudgingly consented to send a request for the required examination materials. “You'll also have to pass the CW examination.”

I told him that I could easily pass the code elements, but ac-

cording to the FCC, I had credit for those elements. “I don't think so,” he replied tersely. I was a little disturbed that he was not familiar with the requirements, and was becoming a little put out with his general attitude. “I know the requirements – check with your COLEM office or the FCC if you don't believe me.” I hung up the phone, and wondered why someone in such a position could have such a nasty attitude. But disgust soon gave way to excitement: it was ON — I was finally going to sit for the commercial examination!

The fact that I was out to prove my point about the questionable validity of public question pools only fueled my desire to not only pass, but to do as well as possible – and to do so by only studying from the massive question pool

The Commercial Radiotelegraph license is available in three forms: Third, Second and First Class. The Third Class (also known as the ‘T3’) requires 16 and 20 wpm telegraphy elements, and two written elements covering international communications law (element 1) and radiotelegraph procedure (element 5).

Element 1 appears mostly as ‘common sense’ to most experienced hams, but a quick read through the question pool will fill in the lost details. It is considered ‘foundation’ knowledge, and is required for all FCC commercial licenses. Element 5 is a bit

more interesting, as it is filled with obscure Q-signals and direction-finding abbreviations that would surely bring back fond memories to any old-time maritime operator.

A little searching on the FCC website uncovered the current question pools for those elements. For a Second Class permit (the 'T2'), one must also pass element 6 – a daunting set of nearly 1000 questions covering all technical aspects of shipboard radio operation. You will find questions pertaining to the proper recharging of Edison cell batteries, correct semi-automatic key (e.g., bug) setup, tube circuits, transmitter maintenance, etc. It is truly a throwback to an era long since past, but interesting nonetheless.

After searching the web for hours, I was unable to find a copy of these questions. I thought this was rather interesting, especially considering that the same set of questions have been in use since 1994.

I finally ended up ordering a printed copy of element 6 from W5YI for \$20. The requirements for the First Class permit (the 'T1') are the same as for the Second Class permit, with the additional burden of two more CW examinations and one year of commercial traffic handling at a coast or ship station.

Over the next few weeks, I studied the question pool when-

ever I could find a little time to sit down with it. On more than one occasion, I found errors here and there, which made me wonder whether or not the answer key used for grading would reflect the correct answer, or the answer as incorrectly provided in the question pool. Inquiries to National Radio Examiners (NRE) went unanswered, so I decided that in order to prove my point, I would provide the answer given as correct in the pool.

My fiancée waited until the last minute to being studying for the General (also studying only the question pool), and I spent the week before the test teaching her Morse code. I was surprised at how quickly she picked up the code, and declared her 'ready' for the CW test after only four days. The night before the exam, I knew she 'got it' when she looked up from her paper and said 'now I understand why you picked your callsign – it rolls out nicely on CW.' At the same time, I found myself cramming for the exam.

I didn't feel good about element 6, because I still had not managed to digest all of the questions in the few hours I had spent studying.

I had only managed to make a single pass through the pool, and had spent too much time trying to correct the numerous errors that were encountered. Nonetheless, I was going to sit for this thing. I had long since passed the point of no return. The daydream-

ing kid that still lived inside of my head wanted this license in a bad way. The original motivation of 'proving my point' had become a secondary motivator.

The day of the exam, I was told that I would have to wait until all of the amateur examinations had been administered before any commercial exams could be taken. I didn't know if this was an actual requirement 'placed on the VE/COLEM, or if it was just the administrator's way of somehow making me pay for questioning his knowledge and authority.

At any rate, I sat and watched as my fiancée passed the code test and aced the written exam for the General. She walked up to me, smiling, and asked me if I could spare a couple of weeks in April for a wedding and honeymoon. I was then handed my tests.

It took only a few minutes each for me to complete elements 1 and 5. Element 6 had a few of the questions in which I had found discrepancies, and I answered each with the answer given with the pool. I handed in my answer sheets for grading, managing to ace elements 1 and 5, and scored an 89 percent on element 6. I was as excited as when I ran out in front of that bus in 1980! Finally, I had my commercial ticket.

In the end, I did manage to prove my point about public question pools – at least at a personal

level (I still wouldn't know an Edison cell battery, even if you threw one at me). Ironically, the fact that I used only the question pools for study material did not seem to diminish my personal value of the permit.

But more importantly, I realized later that one of my motivations for taking this examination was to make a statement: CW is important to me.

As Morse had been put to rest in the maritime world, I had missed my opportunity to fulfill my childhood dream of becoming a globe-trotting, hotshot, ship-board radio operator. However, by getting the permit, I had found a way to have a common experience with those who had truly lived that dream.

At this point in my life, just having that connection is enough for me. And the daydreaming kid that still lives in my mind is finally happy. He will forever enjoy the thrill of imagining the by-gone days of the busy, lovely rhythms that used to fill radio rooms tuned to 500 kHz.

"Fly" the "FISTS Flag"!

I am not good at writing letters or expressing my feelings with words but I felt that I needed to pass this along.

I was first licensed in '68 as WN5YAA but let other events, at age 18, take priority and didn't upgrade. A Novice only had one year to upgrade at that time. I returned to my childhood in '99 and passed my 20wpm before the license restructuring.

The FISTS organization is the best thing that has happened to me since I passed my 5wpm in my Elmer's living room.

I attended HamCom in Arlington, Texas with a friend, K5IOO, this past weekend. It was the first ham convention that I had ever attended. It was great to see so many Hams in one spot and I even found a few treasures that I couldn't live without.

I sported my new "I'm Proud To Be A Know Code Ham" T-Shirt and my FISTS name badge. I can't tell you in words about how proud I was to have people comment on my T-shirt and the conversations that followed. I had conversations from old timers to new techs. I was surprised that the new Hams were not aware of FISTS. Also, the new Hams that were aware of FISTS, were under the impression that there was a code speed requirement.

Long story short.....Wear your badges, T-Shirts and talk the talk. There are a lot of people out there that still don't have the whole story.

Long Live CW ! Buddy Walker

Did You Get Yours Yet?

Hi Nancy,

I got the shirts today... they really look nice. Matter of fact... so nice we may have to order more... hope you don't run out for a while. Thanks for the GREAT JOB! 73/88 de W0PC (Rick)

Hi Nancy,

I received the shirts. They sure look good. Thanks again and 73, Greg KI8AF

Hi Nancy,

The shirts have arrived and they look (and fit) great! Thanks and see you on the bands. I am trying to use our FISTS Club Call VA7TRS for the next couple of months so if you hear VA7TRS, please give a call.

73, John VE7NI

FISTS CW Club

CW Spacing

I wrote an article about proper CW spacing several years ago and received many good comments but I think it's time for a second run. Much of the CW heard on the bands is very good and well sent but there still is a spacing problem with some stations. Here are two examples of bad spacing heard recently.

On day while tuning the CW bands I heard a fellow calling QC QC QC! That's right, QC. What was happening was that he was leaving a word space between the C and Q and letter space between the Q and C, thus sending QC. In my 46 years of CW hamming I have never heard this before.

Another example of poor spacing. This fellow was sending his name and QTH etc. to a new contact. But there was a problem. His name kept coming out as "HPK". The other station would ask for a repeat and still it would come out as HPK. I quickly typed his call into my computer call book and saw that his name was actually HANK. He was running the A and N together with no spacing and of course making the letter P. By the way this was not a new ham.

Other examples of this are words like

NAME which come out NAG because of running the M and E together. How about PLL for WELL and PD for AND. There are other spacing problems heard quite often.

Sometimes you'll hear entire transmissions with no word spaces. Something like this: ~~thenameisjohnandtheqthischicagosohowcopyandbackto.~~

The opposite extreme to this problem is the fellow who has word spacing between each and every letter that he sends. Thus:

~~thenameisjohnandtheqthischicagosohowcopyandbackto.~~

Another spacing problem is the fellow who is in such a hurry to send his call that he forgets to leave a word space after DE and his call and between his call and the K. Like this: DEVE5DCK

Just one more example that I can think of. A new amateur gave me a call on CW and the suffix of his call was ST. While sending the S he left a space between the first and second dit and of course I copied XXXEIT. He couldn't figure out why I was getting his call wrong.

The bottom line is this: Spaces are just blocks of timed silence but they are so very important while sending CW. 73 de Jerry VE5DC #4554 jkdixon@imagewireless.ca

Beacons

The author of this article got seperated from the text, so I apologize to the Mystery Author and if he will write and tell me his name, I'll be hapy to dredit him.

The NCDXF operates a worldwide network of high-frequency radio beacons on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, and 28.200 MHz. These beacons can help hams determine current conditions on all of these bands. The entire system was designed and built by volunteers. Detailed information on the system can be found by going to www.ncdxf.org/Beacon/intro.htm A map showing the location of these beacons can be found at <http://www.ncdxf.org/beacons.html> There have also been articles pub-

lished about the beacon system in the October and November 1994 issues of QST.

The NCDXF beacons each transmit for ten seconds on each frequency show above. in a cycle that repeats every three minutes. They send their call sign at 22 wpm and 100 watts followed by four 1-second dashes at 100w, 10w, 1w and 0.1w. Equipment consists of a TS-50, a Cushcraft R-5 multi-band vertical and a Trimble Navigation GPS receiver to ensure synchronization along with a control unit built by NCDXF.

I recently made use of these beacons on the 15 meter band in making schedules with Stan, ZL2BLQ. He was looking for a W. Virginia contact for WAS. We had been corresponding via e-

mail and had told me of openings into the states he had been hearing on the band during his midmorning hours, which was the middle of the afternoon for me.

Our first attempt at a schedule was marginal at best. I started listening for the NCDXF beacons to find a good opening. When I started hearing the ZL2B beacon signal with good copy we set another schedule that resulted in a fine QSO. Several weeks later we had a second good contact without a planned schedule. In both cases, signals from the W6, KH6, and ZL beacons were good Q5 copy and S-7/9 here in West Virginia.

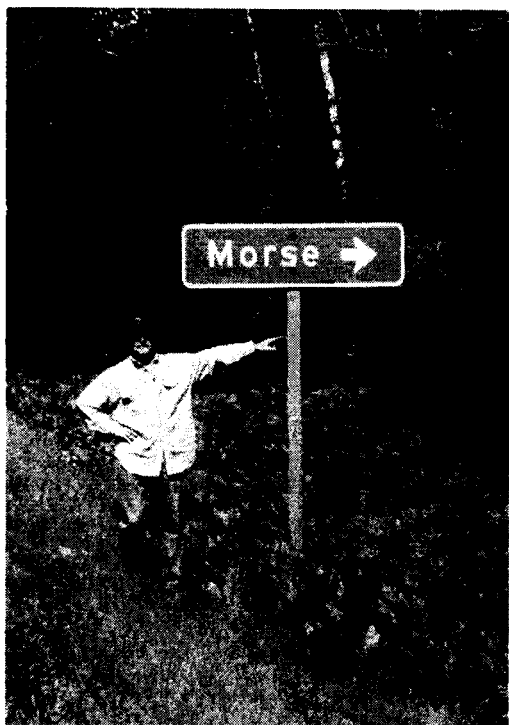
Are the higher bands dead? Not exactly, but you might say they are sleeping and occasionally wake up for short periods of good activity. Look for activity during the daylight hours in your area and into the twilight time of the evening. You may not make contacts over a 10,000 mile path but you will be surprised to find good signal from all over the country and occasional openings in North/South paths between North America and South America.

A good friend and I used to meet on 15 meters several years ago during another low sun spot cycle. We lived some 20 miles apart and would point our beams west while chewing the fat every evening.

We would be joined by others that just happened to tune across our signals on the dead band. They would be from the Midwest all the way to the west coast and we would even get calls from the Florida area off the sides of our beams. Occasionally we would even be joined by other hams up to 100 miles away on ground waves. I often run across many local nets throughout the west that use 10 and 15 meters for their schedules.

A good indicator of the higher frequencies after dark would be listening for W1AW. There are times I can often hear them on all of the published operating frequencies. Of course, on the upper bands theirs will be the only signal heard. I'm sure that if others would get on and try, they could also be heard and make contacts. These will not be long DX contacts, but certainly up to several hundred miles.

Consider checking to see what beacons they can hear and note the times. I would suggest using the listed calling frequencies on these bands to see what activity can be stirred up. Listen and make calls on the hour and the half hour. Don't give up with just trying once or twice. Make short, repeated calls and keep trying. It might be good for first attempts to be made using schedules with friends. See you on the upper bands!



My XYL and I just took a week-long vacation in the Northwoods near Minocqua, WI (Oneida County) and I did take along a QRP rig to do a little hamming! Casual operating with my Elecraft K1 at 4 watts to an end-fed random wire up a tree next to the cottage, or a Pacific Antennas PAC-12 portable vertical netted me 46 contacts, of which 16 were FISTS members, 14 were QRP, and 10 were DX. My best DX was Jacky 3B8CF worked on 30 meters! The picture needs no explanation to FISTS members. The little town of Morse is in Ashland County WI and I had to stop for a "photo op" when we drove past it on a day trip during our vacation! Paul R Goemans WA9PWP Stoughton, WI 53589 FISTS 2153

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS, 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

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CONTEST MANAGER: M5AGL

15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

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Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations
Recommended calling QRGs:
3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:
<fistsawards@comcast.net>
written logs to HQ. No charges and no return
envelope required.

SUBS: e-mail Keynote £4.00, UK mail £5.00, EEC mail £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to just FISTS and sent to G3ZQS. Up-dated listings may also be obtained from HQ. Please include 3 2nd class stamps to cover return and running costs. Lapel Badges, £1.50 incl. Fabric patches £1.50 incl. QSL Cards £6.00 per 100 or £10.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add £1.00 for p/p. DX members - on advice. Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets. Please include your CALLSIGN on all correspondence. Useful contacts:
M0AVW 01642-869619 <m0avw1@ntlworld.com>
M0AYI Glenn@m0ayi.freemove.co.uk
M5AGL bobm5agl@btopenworld.com
M0ZAK jim.steel@ntlworld.com
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QSL BUREAU

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner). UK members send stamps and labels (no envelopes necessary) to the appropriate sub-manager as below:
M or 2 Prefixes (Except for Wales) M0AYI 7 Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, DH9 7TZ.
G0, GM0 etc (Except GW0). G3JRY. 3 Rochford Cresc, BOSTON, PE21 9AE
G3, GM3 etc (except GW3). G0UQF. 2 East St, Darfield, BARNESLEY, S73 9AE.
G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M0ZAK. 6 Central Ave, SHEPESHED, LE12 9HP.
G1, G2, G5, G6, G7, G8 (Except for Wales) and ALL special (GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.
All members in Wales. M0AVW. Address on Banner

Pre-paid postal subscriptions

EU/DX Members: IRCs, UK Banknotes US dollars or Euros to M0AVW. The Club will provide envelopes. Also, any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL postage unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

It has been one of those months here at HQ. I must have managed at best two hours on the air due to admin and indifferent health. There has also been some delay with starting this letter as things have been happening this month which I am sure you will find of interest which concerns the BBC. More of this later however since at the time of writing I am waiting for reports on a broadcast by E.Midlands local TV and radio concerning Morse. The onset of autumn has brought a few surprises in the shape of HF openings. The rig, being on rx with a wide band filter most of the time, bands which at first appear to be flat suddenly produce some unexpected DX signals on an untuned W3DZZ. 18

MHz caused me to rapidly change to the HF mag loop to work a station from Pakistan and then to the beam when S. Vietnam was heard on 15m - no luck on that one though. Hi. Closer to home, 40m again began to return to near normal conditions most days with the South coast producing signals equal to or indeed stronger than DL or F. T'would have been great if only I could have found the time.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

As usual, I will not be printing the December Keynote. Not so much for a rest but the fact that the Christmas/New Year mail would screw things up and the printer would surely be stretched to the limit during that period. It will also give me chance to 'cook the books' ready for 2005. I can tell you now though that our funds remain in a very healthy state and that once again, there seems absolutely no reason to increase subs. Not bad considering that apart from the introduction of a £4.00 subscription for e-mail subscribers, the subs have remained unchanged since around 1988.

SKW AND SEPTEMBER LADDER

The gremlins have struck. Bob M5AGL, reports a computer failure after 6 years of otherwise trouble free operation. The consequence was that although he managed to retrieve some of his backed-up files, the compilation for SKW and September ladder have taken wing and he asks those of you who sent in reports for either event to do so again. This includes for the ladder; MODRK, G0UHM, M5ABN, GX2HDF, G4LHI and GW4HDB. all reported via email and; GU4HUY, G4CBG, 2E0EUK via snail mail.
For the SKW: MORHB (via email) and G4NCU, M0BHA and G3LIK via snail mail.
I assume that Bob is suitably scarlet of complexion after this and a full report including current ladder entries will be published in January.

MORE ON PACEMAKERS

It was Jack G3MEY who cleared the air a little concerning these devices. 'Gone are the days when airport scanners, microwaves etc. need to be avoided'. Gotta use your loaf a little with regard to both of the above - with airport scanners just walk through and don't be tempted into posing for the paparazi on your way before you exit the scanner.

As a pacemaker user, Tony, G4KLF sheds more light on this: Have read with interest the article about Pacemakers and RF. I have had a pacemaker for 15 years now and operated with no side effects all that time including a year in the Royal Air Force of Oman as an Electronics Officer. My duties included being on Radar Head sites which had Megawatts of RF being fired at a high pulse repetition frequencies. This did not affect my pacemaker. Yes I did have to avoid Airport security scanners (as the use of magnetic induction is the way pacemakers are set to their

programs). I ought to say that there is a difference between pacemakers and ICD's (the Implanted Cardio Defibrillator). An ICD controls the hearts pulse rate when the patient is liable to go out of synch, i.e. fibrillates. It sets a regular pace rate. My pacemaker was an 'On demand' device which would push my heart rate up if it dropped below a certain rate, that in my case was if it dropped below 50 pulses per minute, it would switch in and take my heart rate up to 70 pulses per minute. Once my own natural rythem took over then the pacemaker would switch off from the pulsing mode and go back to standby.

I am now on my third pacemaker, this is not due to failure or battery replacement but to the simple fact that I was too active (I was a rock climber and mountaineer). Hence I succeeded in forcing the pacemakers through my skin which subjected them to infection. On my last pacemaker implant they had to remove the old one from the left hand side of my body and remove the wiring from the heart because I had a nest of bacteria slowly growing down to my heart and it would have killed me eventually. This was a four hour operation under general anesthetic and dangerous, they then proceeded to implant the new pacemaker into the right hand side of my body and took the wiring through a blood vein around my neck and down to my heart. Needless to say I have given up rock climbing.

It is pointed out that each succeeding generation of pacemakers is more sophisticated than their predecessor but does this make them either more or less vulnerable to the effects of radiation? It would be unreasonable to expect an awareness of what is perceived as a minor health risk attached to our hobby from a limited field of specialists such as would be found in the realm of pacemaker implant technology so, if you are unfortunate enough to find yourself requiring one of these gadgets, don't take the word of the hospital porter - ASK!

GM3UWX

Hi Geo.

I hope that you are well and that your arm is getting back to normal. I send CW with my right hand but I bought a paddle key a few years ago and John GM4GZQ persuaded me to learn to use it with my left hand so I now have the paddle key left, the straight key right and the log in the middle. I'm not into electronic logs as PCs and I don't get on all that well HI.

John and I have not had any requests for Morse Proficiency Tests so far in the Paisley area but we have been asked to teach six people to use CW. All are either Intermediate or Advanced licensees and are progressing well. Brian MM1HMZ is now approaching 18wpm so maybe we will persuade him to join FISTS someday. We run QRS QSO sessions on Monday evenings at 8pm on 50.300 MHz which is a nice quiet band for this kind of thing. 73 Jim GM3UWX

Fine Jim though you could be restricting your horizons. I dunno anyone who runs 50MHz but as long as you are getting results then that is about all that matters.

See the item by G3ZPF.

FISTS AND AUNTY BEEB

A short while ago I received a CC from Nancy in which a BBC reporter was asking for information on CW and any possible contacts in the East Midlands for CW and the disabled. I e-mailed him which led to a telephone call a consequence of which produced three phone calls in the geographical area of interest. I also found the email address of the membership manager of the RAIBC for him should this help.

A few days later I watched the regional version of the evening news from BBC E.Midlands and was delighted to see Alf (G3UAA) doing his stuff in a short but very interesting spot in the programme.

Odd thing really because some years prior, Alf was approached by the beeb to supply sound-overs for a programme dedicated to the search for a lost Lancaster bomber.

A consequence of the E.M. transmission and the BBCs ICAN website caused my phone to ring due to interest from a reporter from BBC NW keen to do the same sort of thing for our local area though in this case it was to cover the club and a possible point

to point video coverage of a 2-way QSO with a local ham. At the moment I am still waiting further developments.

QRV on the web? try <http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/ican/> and run a search for Morse.

Within a couple of days of this E.M. transmission, I received an email from Gian I2VRF who overcomes his severe disabilities by 'surfing the web' among other activities:

I have sent to you an article of BBC News that obviously you know very well. I am using cw since 1958 (my first licence) and in my situation I am glad to know it so that I can occupy some hours of my long day (sometimes too long!) and I call even if propagation does not aid, it is nice to hear the music of the cw even if only mine.

Best regards. Giancarlo I2VRF "Gian"

E. ASIA CLUB MEMBER

From Jean, JL3SIK news of the inclusion of a club station within the E.Asia chapter:

15100 JE7YTQ (FISTS-JA7 representative JK7UST Sugi)

CALLSIGN LOOKUP SITE

From WB2FXK a QSP of QRZ look-alike:

http://hamcall.net/cgi-bin/do_hamcall.exe

I took a trip there out of curiosity and ammended a much out of date entry for GX0IPX and my own call G3ZQS. Worth a look.

THE DX STUFF

Nov 1-15, Netherland Antilles, PJ2

Nov 11-19, S. Shetland Islands, ZW0

Nov 20-30, Fij, 3D2

Nov 20-Dec 04, Falklands, VP8, VP8WWW in CQ DX CW

Nov 22-Dec 05, Cambodia, XU7ADI

Nov 22-Dec 09, Christmas Island, VK9XG also CQ DX CW

BPL AND FCC

From the CQ Newsroom...

The FCC today adopted new rules for Broadband over Power Lines, or BPL, that it said includes provisions to protect hams and other HF spectrum users from interference and to set up processes for quick resolution of any problems that do occur. However, according to the FCC's news release, disrupting service to BPL subscribers apparently is not an option in resolving interference problems. "The rule changes in the Order establish specific technical and administrative requirements for Access BPL equipment and operators to ensure that interference does not occur," reads the FCC announcement, continuing, "and, should it occur, to provide for a timely resolution of that harmful interference without disruption of service to Access BPL subscribers." The text of the decision was not immediately available. It would seem that the only voice offering anything approaching objection was concerned only that power subscribers may be asked to pay more for their energy bills to support the service.

OBS OF A RETIRED PERSON

A few extracts from a QSP from WB2FXK which I simply couldn't resist sharing:

I planted some bird seed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it.

I had amnesia once - or twice.

I went to San Francisco. I found someone's heart. Now what?

Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.

What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?

They told me I was gullible ... and I believed them.

Two can live as cheaply as one, for half as long.

Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.

What if there were no hypothetical questions?

One nice thing about egotists: They don't talk about other people.

A flashlight is a case for holding dead batteries.

What was the greatest thing before sliced bread?

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

How can there be self-help "groups"?

Is there another word for synonym?
Is it possible to be totally partial?
What's another word for thesaurus?
If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?

UFT BY F6IIE

UTF is born...

Gathered together via an internet list, some friends thinking our aim and Morse code preservation are encountering great risk with the new policy conducted upon our names, we decided to create a lobby named: Union des Télégraphistes Francophones. This lobby was born on Thursday september 2nd 2004 to gather the real lovers of Morse code so called « Friends of Morse ». Our motto...and our goals!

Don't talk about Morse, Practice! For the time being, this is not a club as far as French regulations and laws are concerned. We are lobbying with the aim and motto of a real and active preservation of Morse code under all its purposes. If we need one day to create a new club, this will be but at the moment this is not the main purpose.

We are already exchanging messages and information via a French speaking list which is CW oriented. Our goal is not to collect Euro banknotes nor pile up any treasure. Nor it is to say yes to everything or shut up when somebody else think this is not our turn to argue as far as Morse code is concerned.

Some people thought this is not fair to create such kind of a lobby regarding their action (Orno action at all!) for Morse preservation but this is not our problem. Our action is to provide help on the main part of the hobby which is always forgotten by our national clubs: Help people to learn and use Morse code!

We have a website at <http://utf.webcamnet.net/>

LX QRV WARC

Les G3VQO will be QRV in Luxembourg for CQ WW from the town of Wiltz 26-29 Nov in SOAB-LP section with 100w to some very impressive antennas. Outside of contest period he will be QRV on 30m and other WARC bands and looking forward to possible contacts with FISTS members.

FURTHER E.A. CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Jean JA3SIK adds JO1ZZZ (#15200) to the E. Asia list. Care-taker is Atsu JE1TRV. This of course ties in with the policy of leading chars of suffix being either 'Y' or 'Z' for Japanese club calls.

HSC CONTEST

Date: last Sunday in February and first Sunday in November 2004: 29th February and 7th November

Time: from 0900 to 1100 UTC and from 1500 to 1700 UTC

Stations to be worked: any, every station may be worked once per band and contest period

Categories: 1- HSC members (max. 150W HF output),
2- Non-members (max. 150W HF output),
3-QRP(max 5W HF output)(mems and nonmems,
4- SWL's (members and non-members)

Frequencies: 3.5 MHz; 7 MHz; 14 MHz; 21 MHz; 28 MHz;
(10 to 30 kHz above lower band edge)

Mode: CW only

Exchange: HSC members: RST + HSC membership number, e.g. 599 1730, Non-members: RST + "NM", e.g. 599 NM

QSO Points: 5 points for contacts with HSC members, 1 point for contacts with non-members.

Total score: sum of QSO points.

Logs: Log files on disks or via e-mail (ASCII text files or files of common contest computer software like LM, CT, QW, PCProfilLog, ...; ADIF, STF files preferred) are welcome.

E-mail log entries are valid only after confirmation by the contest manager.

For SWL's: The same station may appear in the log only five times (max.) per period and band.

Deadline: 6 weeks after the contest (postmark) 2004: 11th April and 19th December.

Awards: Since 1998 the "HSC Contest Champion of the Year" is elected each year. To be eligible for this award you have to win

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

both contests in one year. You may change the categories from one contest to the other, i.e. HSC member (1) and QRP (3) or Non-member (2) and SWL (4). The winner will receive a special award.

Contest Manager: Lutz Schröder, DL3BZZ
Am Niederfeld 6, 35066 Frankenberg / Eder.
E-mail: hsc-contest@dl3bzz.de

PROPAGATION FORECAST

The following propagation update for this weekend's CQ World Wide DX Contest (SSB) is provided by CQ magazine Propagation Editor Tomas Hood, NW7US.

The planetary A index (Ap) is forecast to be between 5 and 10 - not too shabby. The peak planetary K index (Kp) is expected to stay around 3 or less. So, this is not a perfect quiet condition. Nevertheless, there shouldn't be significant degradation of the level of ionization.

My Last Minute Forecast <http://hfradio.org/lastminute_propagation.html> shows a High-Normal for 30 October, and Above-Normal for 31 October.

Barring any major flaring and coronal mass ejections, this should be an exciting and productive contest weekend.

I'll create one more update just prior to the CQ WW SSB weekend. And, I'll be posting my predictions for the CQ WW CW weekend, too. Good luck, testers!

Looks like the perceived improvement in band conditions is set to continue and indeed, one of the few N.A. stations worked in the C2C indicated that he had worked ZL2 on 40m which can't be bad. Perhaps it would be a good idea to note the URL page above so that periodic checks may be made.

G4ZPY

KEYS AND PADDLES

All items hand-crafted with the skill of a trained engineer. Also miniature versions which are much acclaimed throughout the world.

SAE/IRC TO:

41 Mill Dam Lane, Burscough, ORMSKIRK, L40 7TG

Tel: 01704-894299

e-mail: g4zpy@g4zpy.co.uk

<http://www.g4zpy.go-plus.net>

HEARING DIFFICULTIES

Spoke on the 'telling bone' to Mary G0BQV, I'd other evening and she was telling me that she has a severe problem in this area, so much so that she needs to make use of an audio loop in order that a hearing aid can pick up from it.

I know we have many members who are similarly disadvantaged in this respect who may not be aware of the advantages of such a loop. Warning... they are not cheap and I spent some time on the internet looking for a 'home brew' alternative but with no luck.

NEW MEMBERS

10851 5B4AHO	Barry	10852 G4CLD	Gerald
10853 ON6SAS	Philip	10853 M3SEN	Jim
10854 G6XCXY	Reb	10854 M0AYX	Tony

G6XCXY may also be identified as G0CJM which call has been listed as an alternative within the active list.

STRAIGHT KEY ADJUSTMENT

It was Gerald who along with others, found my own seized up shoulder ringing bells and photocopied a 1977 (he must have a heck of a reference library) article by WB9VAV hoping it may prove providential. The article uses the 'J' series US Keys as an example and is firmly mounted about 18 inches from the edge of the bench. If you don't fancy the idea of driving screws into your bench surface then use a length (18 inches perhaps) of thin timber or ply as a base. The idea is to rest your forearm and elbow on the bench with the wrist elevated above the knob. Old habits

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die hard and anyone who tried this in the RN would probably have found themselves attached to a length of anchor chain and dumped overboard but when corrosion finds its way into the old joints it's any port in a storm.

I have actually been doing this for years now but since the bench is an area of extreme chaos, the key sits at an angle and I send with a more or less side saddle attitude. However, the article spurred me into experimenting a little and it became clear that (a) the chair is too low since it is used primarily at the computer and (b) the post is perhaps considerably higher than that of the 'J' key. In one of those flashes of inspiration such as when you stuff your finger into a live light socket, I plonked a few magazines on the desk for support and tried that and I must confess it is something of an improvement. There is still some discomfort but much reduced from what it was before.

The article suggests a contact gap of 7, which I find a little excessive but of course the ideal is a combination of tension and gap which are individual preferences and I note that Gerald has penned in '27 thou'.

I shall hang on to this copy for a while in case anyone would like a shift.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G3JKY. Secret revealed is that No2 stepson Chris set off on a world tour in 1993 but only got as far as New Zealand. Could he be a gastronome I wonder or perhaps a chef. In any case he followed a food trail through South Island, Dunedin and ultimately Golden Bay and Takaka (a place you could easily miss if you blink whilst passing through) at which point his batteries seemingly ran out. A decrepit 'house' which Chris and his partner thought to convert to a fashionable restaurant served as a place for Jakey and Joyce to lay their heads in a 2003 visit. They sought to buy a place of their own and a chance meeting with an ex Thames Pilot secured for them a most suitable spot for half the price of their UK residence. There's a lot more to Jakey's letter but for now, he finds time to get on the air and surprisingly has joined the local Brass Band.

G4UIA. Derek promises to report on 'Morse Cracker' now that he has a lap top. With an advertised price of £12.45 this CD is cheap enough if it does the job. Previous PC fell somewhere between Babbage and Sinclair though the more compact lap top can sometimes be difficult to find.

G0EOK. Sorry I couldn't make Rochdale Paul. No transport here of course and my Son was away for a holiday in Italy. Down there in the wilds of Wigan they must have installed sub-aqua power lines because he wrote following his second power failure in two days. Uses a computer desk to accommodate his radio gear and recently added an additional shelf for his Century 22. Surprised at the difference between that and his TS570 in terms of QRN. The Ten-Tec is much quieter. Perhaps I should consider one myself since QRN here can peak at S9 when the FT1000MP is switched off. Hi. Also a hand-rolled keyer (lineage uncertain) via his friend G4VYJ. There are still boat anchors in Paul's attic which he is reluctant to bring down fearing a collapsed desk.

G0OUI. Acknowledges G0GMA as his ultimate Century point and Gordon G4ZPY for supplying the paddles. T'was well worth the wait he says. Yes, 13 years is a long time to wait for your Century Bill but points aside, there must have been many a rag-chew on the way which is really more the object of the exercise than the certificate. Hi.

G3TEV. Mike has a longstanding twice weekly sked with his old R.A.F. pal G3IYC (now in VK3) though it has been heavy weather of late. His daily sked with 9J2BO is now up to nearly 3,600 hits. He also acts as QSL manager for the Zambian station which approaches the status of a full time job with some 3,000 cards per year exchanged.

G3UAA. Alf has an appetite for the infamous. Not only did he feature in the recent BBC programme but the day prior to that, he was scheduled to meet up with the Duke of Gloucester at the 150th anniversary of the Leicester Archeological and History Society where he serves on the committee. Makes you wonder how he finds time to get on the air doesn't it?

G0MYF. Dave recently received Frankfurt Radio Club award and he does a paste-up job (literally) on the back of his QSL card. "CW" is:

a unique, intimate concise and effective communication skill still employed throughout the world. It is the most efficient mode in terms of power required for long-distance communication. least susceptible to interference and most conserving of the RF spectrum. It involves no accent or pronunciation problems providing a widely understood international language. It employs simpler, more reliable and easily maintained equipment than any other communication mode. It is an equaliser, negating age, speech impediments and dialectical differences and it provides for ready acceptance of youngsters in an adult environment. It is the only mode that is understood readily by both man and machine."

Well! after all that what is left to say?

GM3OAV. Well, perhaps that suffix should be OAP since Doug is still coming to terms with finding himself a pensioner. Splashed out on a new Icom 7400 to try and cheer himself up but beginning to doubt that likelihood since hearing some new hams on 2m extolling the virtues of dx-ing via telephone i.e. E-QSO... no HF rig needed. Are we edging our way to automated and computerised QSOs? He still reckons that CW is the best "fun" mode and I can hardly argue with that. Hi.

GW4KUS. I really do hope things improve for you Bert. Due to his wife's health, he has been virtually QRT since the end of January. She was in hospital for 10 weeks, had 5 operations (three of which were major) and was almost lost to us on two occasions. Home now though she requires 24 hour attention with nurse in attendance 3 times per day. And I thought I had problems!

INTERNET LINKING

From G3ZHI I learn there is an article on the above on:

<http://www.qsl.net/g3zhi/Gateways.doc> (doc file)

<http://www.qsl.net/g3zhi/Gateways.pdf> (pdf file)

FINALE

Have to cut 'n run again folks as I am a week behind where I would like to be and need to ensure that printer gets his copy in order that I can get the postal version out pdq.

Trust you will all have a pleasant holiday period and since I do not have to get into a flap about the December issue, maybe can find some time to get on the air.

My thanks to all the supporting staff, particularly the QSL managers at which point I must honour a promise to Chuck who expresses his gratitude for all those stamps.

73/88 people. Make sure it's only the Turkey that gets stuffed over the holidays and I'll be with you again in January.

Geo

I'VE HAD COMMENTS THAT ORDERING SHIRTS IS TOO CONFUSING...SO TO MAKE IT EASIER, I'VE MADE UP THIS SHEET. HOPE IT HELPS.

T-SHIRTS

BLACK

quantity/size

[] small [] med [] large [] XL [] XXL [] XXXL] = _____

BLUE

quantity/size

[] small [] med [] large [] XL [] XXL [] XXXL] = _____

Total number of T-SHIRTS = _____ multiplied by \$5.00 each = \$ _____

FLEECE SWEATSHIRTS

quantity/size

[] small [] med [] large [] XL [] XXL [] XXXL] = _____

Total number of SWEATS = _____ multiplied by \$10.00 each = \$ _____

FISTS Telegraph Key Logo Embroidered Polo Shirts

quantity/size

[] small [] med [] large [] XL [] XXL [] XXXL] = _____

Total number of Polo Shirts = _____ multiplied by \$14.00 each = \$ _____

Total cost of the shirts...\$ _____

SHIPPING:

First Tshirt or Polo: \$2.50..... \$ _____

Additional t-shirts/polos _____ X \$1.00..... \$ _____

First Sweatshirt: \$4.00..... \$ _____

Add'l sweatshirts _____ multiplied by \$2.00.....\$ _____

Total Shipping cost\$ _____

TOTAL

Cost of shirts \$ _____

plus

Shipping \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Ship the shirts to: _____

Checks payable to FISTS CW CLUB; orders sent to FISTS, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440
or via Paypal (www.paypal.com) to fists@tir.com (NOTE it's fists@tir.com NOT nancy@tir.com)

FISTS CW Club

Prices are: T-shirts = \$5.00 PLUS POSTAGE Sweats = \$10.00 PLUS POSTAGE Polos = \$14.00 PLUS POSTAGE To figure postage for USA addresses: First (or only) T-shirt or polo shirt, add \$2.50 Additional T-shirts or polo shirts, add another \$1.00 each (the t's and polos weigh about the same) First (or only) sweatshirt, add \$4.00 Additional sweatshirts, add another \$2.00 These postage prices are only good for USA. For DX orders, please contact nancy@tir.com for correct postage.

You may order using Paypal. The email address to use for Paypal is fists@tir.com. In the "comments" box of the Paypal form, please be specific about what you are ordering, since this info will be used to fill your order.

To order by mail, send your order (don't forget to include what color tshirt you want, and the size!) to: Nancy Kott WZ8C PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440, Checks payable to FISTS. Paypal to fists@tir.com

HOW DO I GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO? Keep SASEs in stock with the FISTS QSL Bureau. Stan Reas K4UK runs the Bureau. Questions? Email k4uk@rev.net. Send envelopes to **1020 Long Island Drive, Moneta, Va 24121**

How DO I ORDER FISTS QSL CARDS? You may use the FISTS logos and get cards from any printer you wish. Cheapqsls.com has made a special FISTS card with special pricing for FISTS members. For ordering information and to see the cards visit <http://www.cheapqsls.com/fists.htm>

HOW DO I SEND FISTS INFO TO A DX FISTS? DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from the UK. Send their info to Geo Longden, G3ZQS at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs, BB32LZ; he will get in touch with them and send them a DX application.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR AN OPERATING AWARD? Dennis Franklin K6DF is the Awards Manager. We have many different operating awards. Dennis's contact information is fistsawards@comcast.net or 4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA 94536-5448.

HOW DO I OPERATE KN0WCW? KN0WCW is the USA FISTS Callsign. Members in good standing (meaning, paid up dues) can operate KN0WCW from their home station after getting PERMISSION. To get permission, contact Karl Zuege 2176 DRAKE RD, Bomoseen VT 05732-9799 or kb1dsb@arrl.net. A schedule of operators can be found on the FISTS Web page. Remember, when you're using KN0WCW, you're flying the flag for FISTS, so please operate responsibly.

HOW DO I VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY? W3HEM, The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club members are the volunteers handling the Code Buddy Program. Contact them at Box 746 MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203 or Email W3HEM@arrl.net. We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! Code Buddy applications are available on line.

HOW DO I GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTO PAGES? Send a snapshot of yourself with your face about the size of a quarter to Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill, Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

HOW DO I RECEIVE THE KEYNOTE ON TAPE? The Keynote is available on tape, free, to legally blind members. Contact Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., CLinton Twp, MI 48038. The tapes are read by Roger Cameron, N8KV and copied and distributed by Ken.

HOW DO I GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION To give at my local club meeting? It's easy and fun! We send you everything you need for a snazzy 15-20 minute presentation. Contact kk5qa@kk5na.com Joe Spencer, 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington TX 76016.

HOW DO I SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE? Contact Bill kk4kf@cox.net

HOW DO I ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE? Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign, and "Int'l Morse Preservation Society" in white. They are \$8.20 postpaid from The Sign man of Baton Rouge, 879 Castle Kirk Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

HOW DO I IMPROVE MY CODE SPEED and MEET LOTS OF NEW FRIENDS? Join FISTS! Get involved in the nets and activities! Volunteer to be a Code Buddy! Write an article for the Keynote about your interests!

**See you on
Straight Key Night**

December 31 - January 1

2005

**Ring in the New Year
with the beautiful
sound of Morse code.**

FISTS CW CLUB

PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

email: nancy@tir.com web page: <http://www.fists.org>

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