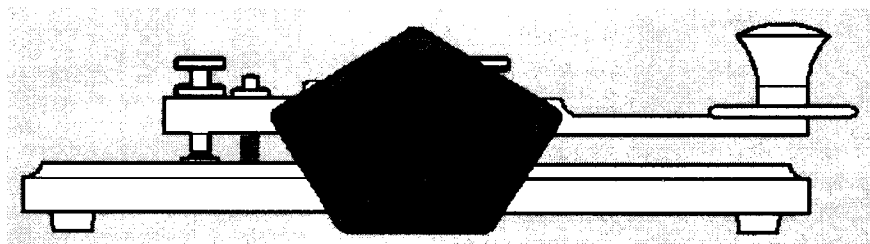


# The Keynote

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 Please read this - it really will answer most of your questions

**HOW DO I JOIN?** Membership is open to all people interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. An application form is not necessary to join, but it gives us a more complete picture of our membership. You can download a North American membership application on the FISTS web page: <http://www.fists.org>.

An application can be mailed to you. Send a message Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, [aa9ls@turbotoads.com](mailto:aa9ls@turbotoads.com) and he will email it to you, or mail an SASE to him at 33778 Rebecca Rd, Kingston IL 60145 and Jim will send you an application via return postal mail.

To join without an application, send your name, call, and mailing address with your membership fee to Nancy WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440 (checks payable to FISTS).

To join using Paypal ([www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)), send the funds to [fists@tir.com](mailto:fists@tir.com). In the comments box, type NEW MEMBERSHIP, your callsign, name and mailing address if different from your Paypal address.

**HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?** Subscriptions are **\$15.00/year**; Under 17= **FREE**; College students = **\$10**. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge-only one newsletter is mailed per household. **Please make checks payable to FISTS CW Club and send to FISTS, P O Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440. Do not send FISTS correspondence to Nancy WZ8C's callbook address.** Checks can take 6-8 weeks to clear from the day received. Nancy processes them, then takes them to the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper enters them into the "official books", then takes them to the bank. Depending on schedules that month, it can take 6-8 weeks. *It doesn't take 8 weeks to get your number, it just may take that long for your check to clear.*

**HOW DO I JOIN USING MY PAYPAL ACCOUNT?** North American FISTS accepts PAYPAL (<http://www.paypal.com>). Address your PAYPAL payment to **FISTS@TIR.COM** To join via Paypal, type "New Membership" in the Paypal Comments Box, your name (if different from the name on your Paypal account), callsign, and mailing address.

**HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO RENEW?** A FISTS volunteer sends out renewal postcards, but if you renew prior to your renewal month it will save postage and printing costs as well as volunteer time. Your renewal date is on your Keynote mailing label in the form of year, month, date. For example 2005/4/4 would be a renewal date April 2005. The date of the month is meaningless, but the computer program requires a date, so generally the date of the month is the same as the month. 2005/12/12; 2006/5/5 etc,

**HOW DO I RENEW?** To renew, send \$15 to Nancy WZ8C (checks payable to FISTS) at FISTS, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440.

**HOW DO I RENEW WITH PAYPAL?** If you have a Paypal account, send the funds to [fists@tir.com](mailto:fists@tir.com); put "RENEWAL" in the Comment Box, along with your callsign.

**MAY I RENEW FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR AT A TIME?** Yes! You may renew for as many years at a time as you like, but there is not a 'quantity' discount.

**MY MEMBERSHIP LAPSED, CAN I GET MY OLD NUMBER BACK?** Yes. Numbers are not reassigned. If you have had a number in the past, let Nancy know at the time of your renewal. so she can 'reactivate' it

**WHERE DO I MAIL A DX APPLICATION OR RENEWAL?** ZL,VK applications are go to Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH at 12C Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6001, New Zealand. East Asia inquiries to Jean at [join@fists-ea.org](mailto:join@fists-ea.org) All other applications are to be mailed to Geo Longden, G3ZQS at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ.

**HOW DO I GET A NUMBER FOR MY LOCAL CLUB?** Clubs with FCC call signs may be assigned a FISTS number at no charge providing 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 and is worth three points toward awards. If the club wants a newsletter, there is a \$15 a year charge. To defray cost, please enclose \$1 when a club applies for an award and wants a certificate.

**continued on back page**

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# FISTS CW CLUB

THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

EDITOR:

NANCY KOTT WZ8C PO Box 47 HADLEY MI 48440

NANCY @TIR.COM PHONE: (810) 797-2033 FAX (810) 797-5808

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Hi FISTS,

This issue has the Fall Sprint Results! I hope you will plan to work the Spring Sprint the second Saturday in May. I missed the Winter Sprint because I went to Florida to attend the Orlando Hamcation. The Hamcation is a terrific hamfest. If you get the chance to attend, I encourage you to do so. I found the Florida road system confusing and had a horrible time trying to find my way around. They name their streets with numbers AND names, but don't put both on the maps OR the street signs. My directions said, take road "John Paul" to "Sunset Dr" but the map had the highway numbers instead of the names. Street signs rarely help because they don't put both the names and the numbers on them. ARGH!! But, you didn't open the Keynote to hear me rant about the FL highway system....anyway, the Hamcation is definitely worth attending!

I am often asked, "How many issues of the Keynote are there in a year?" I can see where this would be confusing because between the bulk mail delivery and my erratic publishing schedule it is hard to keep track. There are approximately 10 24-page Keynotes a year. Sometimes when I get bogged down, especially around June (after Dayton) or the holidays, I combine two issues into one and publish a 48 or even 56 page Keynote and call it a Combo Issue - since it's twice as big it counts as two issues.

The month of the year has nothing to do with the Issue #. I try to get one to the printer every 5 weeks. Issue 1 took longer than anticipated, and should have gone to the printer the first week of Feb. Issue 2 should have gone to the printer the middle of March, and it's March 17 now so I'm just about back on schedule. I'm aiming for the first part of April for Issue 3. It's almost done - I had to remove some material when the Sprint results came in to keep this issue to 24 pages.

Please send stories you've written, articles, cartoons, product evaluations -- other FISTS REALLY are interested in what you're up to and what you have to say. Email them to me at [nancy@tir.com](mailto:nancy@tir.com) or mail to PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440. 73 88 33 de Nancy WZ8C

**Should How Do I be in every issue? It takes up 3 pages, but it's worth it if it helps answer questions. Would every other issue be enough? Or is it easier to have it in each issue? Let me know.**

### *Corrections/Changes and Additions to the membership roster in Issue 1*

W2Z0J (7900) is a club that no longer exists. Please delete it from your roster.

#### Additions:

KS4XN John 1965

N6JRL Don 2470

W7DUD Kent 5057

N6SD Sam 10557

#### Call Changes and Corrections:

11171 should read AB6NC, not AB6MC

3437 should read W1KX, not K1KX

10732 K5PAV is now AD5TT

9992 KB4BXN is K4BXN

9457 KC8UJQ is now N8HN

10540 KD7CEL is now K7MWP

11284 KD0MJ is now N0QU

7887 KG6CMS is now N6NIA

3648 KS7J is now NA7U

11196 N5AUS is now K5BYA

4305 WA6IQM is now K7AO

7870 WA5HQJ is W5HQJ

4354 WB0YPO to W0NX

# Welcome to the New FISTS

FISTS #	Callsign	Name	QTH	Sponsor	FISTS #	Callsign	Name	QTH	Sponsor
11276	WA9FZB	STEVE	IL		11322	WY5K	WILL	TX	
11277	KI0P	MIKE	CO		11323	KE7BTB	DELLA	AZ	KD7ISE
11278	AE6PX	DAVE	CA		11324	W0TGB	MARK	TN	
11279	K1NWB	CHARLES	CA		11325	W8QQQ	Shiawasee County ARC		
11280	W5QZT	JACK	TX				in MI sponsored by K8QY		
11281	KF6HFE	BOB	CA		11326	W4RJR	SPENCER	NC	
11282	WA7YUL	Bob	AZ		11327	W4CEB	DICK	GA	
11283	WA3HJJ	MIKE	VA		11328	WA2YXH	DAVE	NY	
11284	N0QU	MARK	MN		11329	K7KJC	KEVIN	UT	
11285	KB1HDO	JOHN	MA		11330	KY6J	MIKE	CA	
11286	N8RQJ	Harold	OH		11331	W2YC	CAVE	NJ	
11287	K4AH	STEVE	GA		11332	WA4ZKM	BRUCE	NC	
11288	K9FZJ	DAVE	IL		11333	NN3SI	The Smithsonian ARC MD		
11289	W0LZWIN	MO					sponsored by K3NY		
11290	K4VOC	Vortex of Chaos ARC		VA	11334	KG4USN	KEN	FL	K0FM/K6DF
		sponsored by AI4JW			11335	W9AKS	BOB	WI	KA9EKG
11291	WI2C	JOHN	NY		11336	W0UAK	JERRY	MN	W5AJX
11292	KI7PM	BOB	AZ		11337	WA2EQF	SCOTT	NJ	WB2EZG
11293	K9VON	RUSSELL	GA	W4IO	11338	N7KM	KEN	UT	
11294	W2SF	BOB	FL	WB2FXK	11339	K9EIS	DENNIS	VA	
11295	W6VLD	Boeing Employee ARC		CA	11340	N7GEB	GARY	WA	
		sponsored by WB6QQK			11341	AC3C	WILBUR	CA	KF6PVY
11296	W4TJE	JACK	NC	K4PTU	11342	KG4WZQ	RICHARD	FL	
11297	N5DRB	DENNIS	AR		11343	W4RDB	RON	AL	
11298	K4MSM	CHARLES	TN		11344	KB3KXO	LARRY	PA	KB3JAR
11299	AB2GU	BRUNO	NY		11345	NM3B	Wayne	PA	
11300	RESERVED FOR CLUB				11346	W5VXE	TED	NM	K9KYP
11301	K5LYT	ROBERT	TX		11347	W5GXV	GENE	TX	
11302	KP4KC	Pedro	PR	WB2FXK	11348	N5KWB	TOM	LA	KA3AKC
11303	WI6T	REX	CO		11349	VE3HUR	DON	ON	
11304	KI4FBF	TIM	VA	AI4JW	11350	WI8E	Swartz Creek RF ARC MI		
11305	N1OW	DICK	MA				sponsored by K8TJ		
11306	K3NET	JOE	PA		11351	K7AWJ	JOE	WA	
11307	W4YD	DAVID	FL		11352	KE6US	ERIC	CA	
11308	KJ5CI	BILL	OK		11353	AE6NY	BEN	CA	
11309	WA0QII	ROD	WA		11354	KS7RJOHN	MT		
11310	NU2J	MARC	NJ		11355	KI4IMF	Cedar Forest ARC TN		
		sponsored by KG2GL/K2GVC			11356	N4MIO	DWAYNE	NC	
11311	N8JY	JOHN	OH		11357	N7TDK	BILL	WA	
11312	WB9EMD	DENNIS	CO		11358	K4QOJ	BILL	FL	
11313	KG6YAE	DICK	CA	W7POE	11359	KE7CAY	JENNIFER	OR	
11314	KC2IOD	FRED	NY	K9JXW	11360	N7HAE	JOE	OR	
11315	K8IQ	GARY	MI	K8JJ	11361	KB3RMX	MIKE	MD	
11316	KA3NZR	HARRY	VA	K4UK	11362	K4WLQ	JIM	TX	
11317	KA3AAS	TOM	FL	K2BCL	11363	KB5AE	GEORGE	OK	N5DUQ
11318	WB4CXC	VAN	TN	W4HZD	11364	N3CK	CHARLIE	FL	WB2FXK
11319	W9RSR	ROBERT	IN		11365	KC9BBA	DICK	IN	
11320	N5KEV	KEVIN	NM		11366	KZ2G	Bob	NY	
11321	W8VID	CHARLES	WI	K0KGY	11367	KJ6C	CARL	CA	

11368	NH7TG	DAVE	AZ
11369	KH6BZF	LEE	HI
sponsored by K1ER/KH6 N0CO/KH6			
11370	KH6RAT	PACRAT ARC	HI
sponsored by K1ER/KH6 N0CO/KH6; KH6BZL			
11371	W8LSV	BUD	MI
11372	W0SZP	RICHARD	TN
11373	K9TH	TIM	MI
11374	KI4GUP	BARRY	NC
11375	K4EG	Alamance ARC	NC
sponsored by AG4NY			
11376	AD4UB	EUGENE	FL WB2FXK
11377	KI4IGH	AARON	TN
11378	N9BIL	TIM	IL
11379	KE6XU	DICK	UT N5DUQ
11380	KA2EMZ	BILL	NJ
11381	KP4GL	CARLOS	PR WB3FXK
11382	N9FDF	TOBY	IN K4PTU
11383	K4OSO	MILT	VA
11384	VA3RE	BOB	ON
11385	W2GIW	KEN	NJ
11386	NA8K	MIKE	WV
11387	KT4AC	JOHN	TN
11388	AI4GP	JIM	NC
11389	K5VG	JOHN	VA
11390	NO3R	PAUL	PA
11391	WA0MBK	BILL	KS WB2FXK
11392	W4JY	PAUL	AL WB2FXK
11393	K1SEZ	PAUL	CT W5CFN
11394	KB3KKY	JACK	DC
11395	WD8IEL	CHELSEA ARC	MI
11396	WH6ASW	RAY	HI
sponsored by K1ER & KH6BZF			
11397	K4CUB	JACK	SC
11398	KB1HFT	GEORGE	MA
11399	KC9GBX	JEF	IL
11401	K3DW	KEN	PA KG9LZ
11402	K4DFG	DAVE	FL
sponsored by Anna Gilliam			
11403	KC5EAF	LARRY	KS
11404	VE3BZ	HARRY	ON W2BWQ
11405	NY2LJ	LONNIE	NY
11406	K0DBK	BRAD	MN AB0XE
11407	KE5DYA	JOE	TX
11408	KF8WA	CECIL	KY
11409	KA9TBU	MAUREY	WI W8BRE
11410	KD5MCP	JOHN	OK N5DUQ
11411	WB5OSD	BOBBY	LA

**Pse QRS, or Not? And Hamsticks**

From Gery, VE2KRM: Never say: PSE QRS - That sounds like an order. Better say: VY SRI U R TOO FAST FER ME - U LUCKY TO HVE SUCH A GUD FIST - CU AGN WHEN I CAN CPY ES BK TO U MY FRIEND. That always has good results, if he comes back at the same speed, it's 73.

Also, two Hamsticks on the horizontal with the special fitting makes a perfect dipole near the ceiling in the next room from the shack or the hallway. Au revoir, Gery VE2KRM

**Name tag/shirt source**

I found a place that has exceptional work by a YL ham. She uses "dye sublimation" which forces the dyes into the material. I've shown people my call sign pins that she made for me and they were ALL impressed by the quality - and the people I showed them to were people who sold tags. They said: Where did you get this? Her email is: [mandy@tagme-engraving.com](mailto:mandy@tagme-engraving.com) Also she can make full color graphics on t-shirts and sweat shirts. The dye material is actually put INTO the fabric rather than on the surface. This means it will take many more washings. <http://www.tagme-engraving.com/> 73 David N1EA

**Thanks, to W4MJT**

Leonard N4NIC writes, "W4MJT got on my case to renew my membership, so I'm doing it." Keep up the good work, Furman!

**Thanks, to the Bureau**

The entire FISTS Buro page is wonderful and very easy to use and helpful. I especially like the search function for my call sign that shows how many cards and enveloped are at the Buro. Thank you so much for doing this.73, Chris, KI4CBF, FISTS Nr 10306

## FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

## AWARDS ISSUED

Nov 18, 2004 to Feb 28, 2005

As you can see by the many calls listed below for the various awards, club members have been busy these past few winter months! Propagation has not been all that good this winter but that didn't seem to deter our members from getting on the air and working for their favorite awards.

One of our relatively new members, Roger K1TG, has earned 11 FISTS awards all in his first year in the club! He also builds vintage radio gear and currently has been using some of it on the bands. If you hear Roger on the air, please give him a call and signal report, as he is interested in what his old "valves" sound like at your end of the wire

Congratulations to Dave Burk, W8III. Dave is the fifth and latest club member to earn the coveted Nightmare Alpha-Numeric FISTS Award (NANFA).

There is still time to get your NANFA award with a single digit serial number, just get on the air and work more FISTS club members! **Who will be NANFA award winner number 6?**

Remember to use the awards e-mail address, ([Fistsawards@comcast.net](mailto:Fistsawards@comcast.net)) for sending in your award logs

*The FISTS number for KN0WCW can only be counted ONCE!*

Please check the FISTS Web Page for additional information regarding current FISTS awards and how to apply for them:

<http://www.fists.org/awards.html>

If you have any questions about the awards that are not answered on the FISTS awards web page, feel free to e-mail me with your questions.

Keep banging the brass . . . C U on the bands . . . 73, Dennis K6DF

### Basic Century (CC)

AA6RH	KR7W
AB0XE	KT2E
AB3AP	KX5F
F5NQL	KY8U
G0GMA	N1DBS
JK7UST	N4SDM
K0AQO	NM3B
K0FM	NN9K
K0FR	OE5GM
K0RDS	VA3EWK
K2MEN	VA7CAB
K4DXU	VE1CB
K5WTA	VE5DC
K6RCZ	VK2CTN
K7ZD	W1FFF
K9LCK	W4IO
K9WM	W7AJK
KA4JQZ	W7POE
KA8JRV	W9BRE
KA9GSU	WA0QZK
KB1LBP	WB3DOM
KB3HQB	WB6HGJ
KC9BSP	WB8CAC
KD5BFT	WB9DLC
KD8AC	WG8W
KD8DX	WO8L
KE5CXX	WU9F
KF6PVY	WZ8K
KI4FW	ZL2CB

### Silver Century

DF2YJ	KI4DEF
F5NQL	KT2E
K0TC	N0BN
K1MLP	W6RK
K2EKM	W7AJK
K4KIX	W8UI
K5NT	W2SXY
KC9DSE	WB8CAC
KD5BFT	WD6CKT
KD7CJV	ZL2SWR

**Gold Century**

K3XI  
K7UIE  
K8QY  
N9MZP  
VE2FSK  
W4BWP  
ZL2SWR

**Diamond Century**

KA3AKC  
KB3JAR  
NX2GW  
VA2MMJ

**Platinum Award**

AB7VS  
DF2YJ  
K0TC  
K5NT  
KB3HBD  
KB3HQB  
KD5BFT  
KD7CJV  
KI4DEF  
KT2E  
VA2SVP  
VE2FSK  
W0MHZ  
W1NRX  
W7AJK  
W8UI  
W9BOK  
W9SJW  
WB0QQT  
WB2SXY  
WB6SZZ  
WB8CAC  
ZL2SWR  
WB8TXG

**Platinum 250 Award**

K0KGY  
K3XI  
K7UIE

K8QY  
KE6OIO  
N4GE  
WA7CS  
WY7W

**Platinum 500 Award**

6Y5WJ  
W7DO  
WA6RND  
WB0PYF

**Worked All States (FISTS)**

K7UIE  
KA3AKC  
KB3JAR  
KD5BFT  
KD5MJJ  
KG4NNN  
KG9HV  
NZ7C  
VA2SVP  
W7AJK  
WB8TXG

**1 X QRP**

KA3AKC  
WB4MED  
WB8CAC  
WZ8K

**2 X QRP**

KA3AKC  
WB4MED

**WACA (Worked All Call Areas - KN0WCW)**

WB4MED

**Rag Chewers' Award (RCC)**

W8UI  
WB2WGX  
WD5DWC

**NANFA Award**

W8III

**HEY YOU! YES, YOU!**

Aren't you one of the FISTS who has recently been complaining in the Keynote about not having the room to put up a big antenna?

Or maybe you're one of those who has written and said that you use simple antennas and are doing well with them, but don't give any specific examples of what you mean by doing well.

Well, I'm sorry I was rude, but it's sometimes a good way to attract attention, and now that I've gotten your attention, let's talk about antennas.

First of all, let me make a statement about antennas I want you to keep in mind. Constructing ham radio antennas is not rocket science. Let me repeat that since it is so important. Constructing ham radio antennas is not rocket science. Most things that are written about antennas may lead you to believe there is something special and very complicated about them. Tain't so, believe me.

I'm going to describe my situation here, then go into detail what I've done with that situation. Not to brag, but to encourage those of you who think you can't do well with less than a huge antenna farm.

First of all my QTH is near to the center of Kittanning which is located in a river valley with hills all around ranging in elevation from 2 to 9 degrees or so. I live in one half of a double

house on a lot about 100 by 20 feet. Since the house occupies most of that lot, I obviously have no room for an antenna farm.

My antenna farm or "antenna victory garden" as it was called by my friend Alan, KB7MBI consists of: A 10M sloping dipole mounted on my front porch roof. A 15M vertical dipole mounted on the side of my house with its center perhaps 20 feet high. A 20 meter dipole mounted in a flat-top inverted vee configuration in a room on the third floor of my house which we call the attic although there is a crawl space above the third floor which many would call the real attic.

An end-fed random wire that runs from my shack on the second floor outside up to the third floor, then through the third floor and out a back window where it slopes down at something like a 30 degree angle to vertical and ends at the top of a 7 foot pole in the back yard.

It's about 110 feet long in all. The random wire is for 160-30 meters. The 15M dipole is also used on 12 and 17 meters.

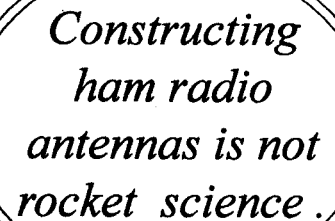
My ground system is a wire run from the shack down to a ground rod that is connected to a cold water pipe. There are two radials from the ground rod, one about 17 feet long, the other about 50 feet which is tied into the power company ground.

Except for cutting the dipoles to the correct length for the middle of the CW portions of the bands, nothing was designed or measured. It was just what would

fit into the room that I had available. As I said it's certainly not rocket science by any means.

"OK, so what have you done with such a poorly designed system - work your neighbor across town?" I hear many hams saying.

Well, as a matter of fact I did work a ham in the other half of my house, when he lived there a few years ago, but wait, there's more.



*Constructing  
ham radio  
antennas is not  
rocket science.*

Let's get down to specifics. I've made some 40,000 QSO's during the past 11 years or so with the setup I've described. Those 40K QSO's came from hams in 203 different countries or entities as they are now referred to in the DXCC program.

All six regularly inhabited continents have been worked many times over along with quite a bunch of stations from Antarctica. All states have been worked.

Since August 5, 1994 I've made at least one QSO every day in what is commonly referred to as the streak. The streak covers most of my ham activity since I retired in the early 90's and became active in ham radio again. I say that because rather than re-computing a lot of statistics to in-



clude 1993 and early 1994, I'll use my streak stats for the following info.

I've worked all 50 states many times over. In fact, the least worked state is Wyoming with 37 QSO's. My QSO totals by band are: 160M - 2,194; 80M - 5,574; 40M - 10,136; 30M - 2,151; 20M - 8,432; 17M - 451; 15M - 5,845; 12M - 234; 10M - 5,274.

My most worked country besides the USA and Canada is Germany with 1072 QSO's. My best Asian country is Japan with 169 QSO's. Overall there are 29 countries with which I've had 100 or more QSO's.

I've earned certificates in too many contests to mention here. A couple I'm a little more proud of are the 2002 ARRL DX Contest where I made 633 QSO's, my most ever in any contest. Also coming in second overall regardless of power category in the Florida QSO Party a few years ago really pleased me.

There's much more I could tell you to convince you once and for all that simple wire antennas in a poor location will work, but I'm out of space here.

If you want still more convincing, visit my web site (<http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/>) where you can also see some pictures of the antennas and more info on what I've accomplished with them. 73 -30-

## Sprint Logging Software

I have been using Win-EQF on Field Day with my club for years, but am always frustrated trying to work the Fists Sprints with it. The module for setting up a new contest just doesn't provide enough space for the whole exchange. So, I go to paper logs & dupe sheets for it.

Does anyone have suggestions for better logging software for Fists Sprint? I have looked at N1MM Logger (great for ARRL's NA Sprint), and just looked at Lux-Log (needs work!), and understand that N6TR Logger has Fists Sprint. Any freeware programs or shareware? Any that are better than Win-EQF for letting the user create a new contest?

Alan W. N5LF

Scott, N3FJP has a great program for working the FISTS Sprints. It's very inexpensive and he has a bunch of other great pieces of software.

<http://www.n3fjp.com/index.html>

Scott and FISTS are not connected and only Scott makes money off his software. Just wanted folks to know. 73 Dan, N8IE

I use and especially like N3FJP's logging software. There is a module for the fists sprint. After the sprint is complete... your results can be imported into the "main logging" program, AC Log. AC log can be custom configured to

place all of your ancillary info to keep track of important details other than PWR, RST, CALL, Date, Time, ect.

Also, there is a large support group for N3FJP's software as a yahoo group on the web. The price is cheap (I paid \$39.95) a few years ago for "logging software for life". N3FJP is good about making upgrades and improvements based on user's suggestions, too.

Our local radio club used N3FJP's Field Day module for the last two years on seven stations... no problems, even works in a Win 95 PC. Anyways.... my \$.02 worth.... One more thing.... Logging software is rated and reviewed on eham.net. Might be worth checking out. Rich KR7W

I'll also cast my vote for the N3FJP software. I chose the N3FJP software because at the time it was the only logging software I could find that supported the FISTS Sprint. As someone mentioned, each contest really is a separate program, not just an add-on module. You can buy only the FISTS program for \$5 or \$6, but if you pay for the entire suite, it's only \$40.

For that price, you get a key that lets you download and "unlock" any of the N3FJP logging programs, including any new versions. It's a deal, if you ask me, but if you already have a main logging program that you like,

*Send in YOUR  
stories to the Key Note!*

then buying only the FISTS Sprint program might be the way to go.

That the contest programs are all separate has its good points and bad points. For example, one good point is that the programs will easily generate Cabrillo files for electronic log submission. A bad point is that to add those QSOs to the main log, you have to export the data and then import them to the main log. It's not difficult, but it is an extra step.

As for supporting different station setups, the software has several user-configurable fields. You could use one or more of those fields to keep track of the station setup you used for a particular QSO. 73!  
Dan KB6NU

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I have been using Writelog with great success. It can be a little confusing at times, but if you actually read the manual it all works out as advertised. There is a good support reflector also, where you can ask questions, etc. There are many independent web sites that also have extensive info. I can set up each and every contest as it's own stand alone, use different call signs, such as KN?WCW, K8FST, or W8FAX with no problem.

The logs can be kept completely organized. In addition, the software provides computer control of rigs, canned or real time CW keying from keyboard or "F" keys, RTTY control, and PSK control. It can also be linked to MMTTY which is a popular RTTY program. You can even pre-record phone messages for contests if you like. I can send logs directly to LOTW (requires internet) if I want, or eQSL if that is your bag. It also has a rotor control but I do not use this.

There are several "plug-in" type modules available, and I use the one for FISTS Sprints, both during the event, and as a general FISTS log. This is just my opinion, and I certainly am not affiliated with Writelog in any way, just a happy user of the product.....Al/W8FAX 2192

## Silent Keys

**W2TFL -Paul Rogers**, age 90, FISTS 9941. Paul's friend, Horace, KA2HDO, says that Paul was indeed "Mr. Ham Radio of Delaware County" and could be found monitoring the 2 meter frequencies, answering technical questions, giving directions for the back roads or just rag chewing. Paul never missed a Field Day and was the one who brought it all together year after year. When asked how he knew what frequency to use, Paul gave a typical laconic reply, "you didn't have to spin the dial too long before you found where the action is." He will be missed by his friends in FISTS as well as his local club.

**Ralph Caryl, W8LGH**, became a Silent Key March 9, 2005 at the age of 79. A long-time telegraph enthusiast, he learned Morse code while working for Grand Trunk Railroad. After his retirement from General Motors in 1983, Ralph dedicated much of his time to sharing his love of Amateur Radio and telegraphy with the general public. He tirelessly conducted telegraph demonstrations at schools, community functions, and radio club meetings. He was instrumental in restoring the historic depot station at Crossroads Village, a turn-of-the-century living history center. Wearing authentic telegrapher style of clothing, Ralph would spend many weekends doing demonstrations at the depot. He particularly enjoyed seeing the faces of the children light up when they realized that they could send messages in code.

In addition to being President of the Toledo Chapter of the Morse Telegraph Club and a Director of the MI QRP Club, Ralph was a positive and supportive role model, passing his love of Amateur Radio on to the next generation. He took delight in being an Elmer and will be deeply missed by those whose lives he touched.

## More Small Space Antennas

I've been reading the the past few issues of the Keynote about Hams living in condos with antenna restrictions. In 1975, I lived in an apartment with antenna restrictions. I loaded up the downspout of the rain gutter with a Johnson matchbox before using the gutter, I measured it to ground with my VOM. It read infinity when dry, so I loaded it up against a cold water pipe ground as a random wire. During the year I lived in the apartment I made lots of 80 and 40 meter CW contacts in the eastern half of the US. Usually I ran 50 watts output or less. One Ham here in town laughed at my antenna but it did work.

Another idea to try is use a mobile whip on the car, connect coax to whip, make contacts, then disconnect the coax and roll it up when finished. I've never heard of condo or apartment restrictions about what you can put on your car.

Attic antennas also work. A few years ago, I put an 40 meter dipole fed with 300 ohm twin lead in my attic. Had to bend it to make it fit. My matchbox loads it fine on 40 thru 10 meters, over a year I compared it to an outside dipole and it averages about one S-unit down from the outside dipole. Attic antennas will work.

Another idea is the outside random wire made with thin wire - the so-called 'invisible' antenna. A good source of cheap (free) thin wire is deflection

yokes from junked TV sets, the wire is usually #24 or #26 gauge.

In conclusion, any Ham who is willing to experiment can get a signal out from their condo or apartment. 73, Richard Bill WA4BNO #4713

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With the many article describing antennas, I thought I'd share my "special" antenna. "My Disastrous Antenna" This could be entitled "How Not to Build and Antenna."

The description of my "Antenna System" shows many things that are considered "wrong," but the really important thing is it works. It may not be the most efficient, but I get my share of DX and good stateside QSO's. That's what is really important.

Let's start with the antenna tuner. I use an antique Johnson Matchbox. I read somewhere that this relic is obsolete because it doesn't cover 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters. Sure, it does. Well, almost. I have trouble on 60 meters, but that's only because it's a USB band. Try the 40 meter position on 30, the 20 or 15 meter position on 17 meters, and the 10 meter position on 12 meters. It loads up fine.

I hope you aren't worried because the antenna tuner is "out of band." Transmission line is 300 ohm twin lead. Radio Shack's best quality, too. It may have more loss than ladder line or high quality stuff; I don't really worry about

it, it's only about 70 feet long anyway.

The twin lead goes out thru the basement window and over to the fence where it is nailed (Yes, nailed.) every few feet to the fence rails. The fence is wood which makes for variable results when the wood is wet or dry. After about thirty feet, the twin lead goes up to the center of the dipole that I think is about twenty-five feet high. The dipole is seventy feet long. That length is for no particular ham frequency band. It's a length of Radio Shack antenna wire with an insulator in the middle and twin lead attached. The dipole is not straight.

The angle between the two sections is a bit more than 90 degrees, but I haven't measured it. The ends of the dipole are tied to two poles, one 10 feet and the other 15 feet high. I have no idea which compass direction this thing favors if any.

Did I mention power? I'm only using a 20 watt Ten Tec Argonaut V.

So there we are. A non-straight, seventy feet long dipole, ten to twenty-five feet high, fed with 300 ohm twin lead that's nailed to a wooden fence and fed with an out of band match box. Lots of things "wrong" but, as I said, it works. The point is don't worry if your antenna is not "perfect" or "by the book." If you have an idea for an antenna, try it and see if it works. Good luck.

DE W1XH Fists 8768

## The Road Less Traveled

by Jeff Davis, KE9V, FISTS  
#6641 *(used with permission  
from the author)*

Bob was definitely not your typical amateur radio operator. At 79 years-old he had outlived most of his friends. He and his wife had lived in the same large, white house at the end of the lane for over 50 years. To call the house "old" didn't do justice to the fact that it was maintained superbly and was the envy of nearly every homeowner in Middletown.

The local radio operators didn't quite know what to make of Bob. In many ways he was a dinosaur. He didn't own a computer, had never run packet or any digital modes. He had read that hams had put satellites in orbit but he doubted that was true. He didn't even own a 2 meter handheld transceiver, a fact that further estranged him from the membership of the local radio club.

It was rumored that every piece of equipment in his shack was homebrewed and while I wasn't certain about that, I did know that he didn't own a microphone. I discovered that tidbit when he answered my CQ one night on 80 meters. We had an enjoyable QSO that ended with Bob inviting me to bring my rig over for some repairs. In the course of our conversation I had told the old-timer that I would spend more time on CW if I could get rid of an annoying chirp in my Heathkit HW-16 transceiver.

A few nights later, I pulled up at Bob's QTH. Before getting out of the car I spent a few moments admiring the house. It was a lovely old place; they just don't build them like that anymore. I turned the collar up on my coat in an attempt to avoid the chilly autumn air. With the rig under my arm I rang the doorbell and noticed the front porch was decorated with pumpkins, gourds, and corn stalks that added to the charm of the country home. Bob's wife Stella, answered the door and directed me through the kitchen to the stairs that led down into the basement radio shack.

I couldn't help but comment on the delicious aroma of cinnamon and apples that wafted through the kitchen. Stella explained that she was brewing up a batch of her hot, spicy cider and she'd be bringing us a cup a little later.

Grateful for the hospitality I headed down into the basement to meet Bob.

From the bottom of the stairs I could see that the radio shack was every bit as impressive as I had imagined it might be. There was a large desk on one side that served as the main operating position. On the opposite side was a long workbench with an abundance of test equipment, tools, and dozens of small plastic cabinets each with 24 smaller drawers that held countless parts and hardware.

Bob introduced himself and told me to put my sick radio on the workbench. He commented on the colder weather while he was removing the cover from the HW-16. I was busy looking around his well-stocked shack; a lifetime collection of radio and memories.

*(continued on page 14)*

### The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair, And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear; Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day! Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

-Robert Frost

On one wall was a large oil painting of the USS Missouri and below that were several framed photographs of a young, twenty-something Bob operating the wireless set onboard the battleship in 1944. Another wall was covered with more operating awards and achievements than I could count—many of them were from faraway countries. Apparently, Bob was a pretty serious operator.

Within minutes the old-timer declared to have found the problem. A bad capacitor in the power supply circuit wasn't allowing the supply to deliver a steady voltage and the result was a chirp on my signal according to Bob. While he was searching through his component drawers for a replacement Stella entered the shack with two steaming mugs of hot apple cider.

As we sipped the tasty brew Bob and I talked about ham radio. It seems the old fellow had been licensed since before World War II. After the war he married Stella, moved into this very house and spent the next forty years working for the telephone company. When he told me he had an Extra class license I asked him why he didn't operate any mode other than CW.

"I started off using CW because the only equipment I could afford was CW-only equipment. There came a time when I could have afforded a modern, all-mode rig but I just couldn't see why I would want to do that", he continued, "I know it isn't everyone's cup of

tea, but I enjoy CW. I figure it's something I can do that not too many others care to even try. I figure that makes it special."

"Take a look at this", Bob said. He pointed to a framed copy of a poem, 'The Road Not Taken' by Robert Frost. "Now it may sound silly to you, but fifty years ago I didn't have any money for expensive equipment. I couldn't even afford a new automobile until 1950. But when I would get home at night and fire up my homebrewed transmitter and pound brass, the other stations had no clue that I was a poor man. You see, CW doesn't care what color your skin is, it doesn't care what church you go to and it doesn't care who you vote for. CW doesn't care if you are college educated or a high school dropout. And it dang sure doesn't care how much money you make. I don't think my decision to run CW-only was all that odd. You might just say I'd taken the road less traveled."

"All that matters on CW is that you have a good fist and a clean signal. If you can muster both of those, kings and would-be presidents will chew the rag with you." As he said that, he showed me a scrapbook with QSL cards and handwritten personal mail from the late Barry Goldwater, K7UGA and JY1, the late King Hussein of Jordan. Stuffed in that scrapbook were dozens of other QSL cards, photos and personal letters from doctors, lawyers, astronauts and scientists the world

over who shared a love of ham radio and of the code with this simple old man.

As we finished our cider, I was trying to think of something to say. In light of what I had seen this evening it seemed ridiculous that we thought Bob was an oddball just because he didn't own a two meter handheld or a computer. In fact, at that point it was me who was feeling pretty inferior until Bob broke the tension and said, "now that your rig is fixed, we ought to plan a regular schedule so you can get your code speed up, are you interested?"

And with that, Bob and I began a weekly schedule that we kept every Thursday evening for many years until Bob became a Silent Key.

As for me, I ended up selling most all of my gear. Now, the only equipment in my shack is equipment that I've built myself. I operate CW-only and mostly QRP except for Thursday evenings when I fire up that old HW-16 and pound the brass late into the night.

When the leaves begin to fall and the air turns crisp and cool, my wife makes spicy hot apple cider and I sit in my shack and admire that oil painting of the USS Missouri that now hangs over my operating desk.

I guess you could say that I, too, have taken the road less traveled, and I'm glad I did.

# Fall Sprint Results

## ORO Category

<i>Call</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>FISTS#</i>	<i>SPC*</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>*State, Province, Country</i>
N4BP	Bob	7871	FL	33605	
K4IA	Buck	6702	VA	20790	
WB0PYF	Ray	7986	MO	17057	
W9YQ	Dwight	2765	WI	13888	
N5DY	Jack	11105	OK	12441	
K8NVR	Ed	7957	OH	12390	
KN9X	Dan	8671	IL	11776	
W5TA	Dick	7889	TX	9884	
K5IZO	John	10309	TX	9628	
KS0M	Dick	3067	MO	7965	
K5YQF	Cecil	8077	TX	7685	
W6RK	Risto	10908	CA	7392	
KD7CJV	Phil	9733	OR	7202	
W7DPW	David	10410	WA	6532	
KB6NU	Dan	9342	MI	6531	
K9PL	Philip	6753	IL	5925	
W0UY	Tom	8632	KS	5850	
W9IL	Louis	N/A	IL	5290	
K1TG	Roger	10462	CT	4579	
NX2GW	Richard	3342	NJ	4163	
KG9LZ	Tom	5769	IL	3927	
KH6HHS	Talley	9579	VA	3534	
K9JWI	Clyde	3051	IN	3440	
KG2LO	Roland	2980	NJ	3240	
AE2L	Josh	1912	NC	3240	
VA3EWP	Vincent	8070	ON	3200	
WA4UXJ	Robert	8142	KY	3040	
KS5V	Ed	3283	TX	2952	
W6FU	Ken	2193	CA	2508	
KY7F	Doug	7311	MO	2508	
VE7NI	John	7935	BC	2304	
K4UK	Stan	2934	VA	2244	
N7EIE	Leroy	9926	WA	2156	
N4RE	Rick	8806	NC	2130	
KU8T	Thomas	10163	IN	2106	
K8VFR	Rosemarie	5602	MI	1976	
VA2SVP	Guy	7048	QC	1887	
KD5MJJ	Hank	8180	TX	1792	
W9JJW	John	10004	IL	1708	
KB9YDI	Dan	10289	WI	1650	
N0OA	Jim	8264	MN	1632	

<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>FISTS#</u>	<u>SPC</u>	<u>Score</u>
K5POA	Jimmy	7062	TX	1105
NU7T	Steve	4676	NV	972
WA0VQY	Robin	3346	IA	900
KH6HE	Alex	7423	HI	850
KB5MM	Joe	10791	TX	840
K0LWV	Larry	2589	MO	825
WA3RML	Andrew	9449	TX	750
K8NU	Carl	9439	OH	720
K9LCK	James	5473	WI	600
W8GAC	John	4043	OH	513
N0ZD	Mike	8585	MO	500
AC5ZQ	Buddy	6820	TX	456
KE3CR	Giles	4192	DE	420
K4DXU	William	10646	TN	240
W6SJ	Randy	10556	CA	175
I0QM	Roberto	N/A	ITY	100
N5XGG	Joe	9974	TX	20
N4UXA	Bryan	10216	VA	20

### **ORP Category**

<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>FISTS#</u>	<u>SPC</u>	<u>Score</u>
K7TQ	Randy	3251	ID	12210
AD6WL	Jim	9259	CA	7627
N9MZP	Walt	6950	IL	6656
W5KDJ	Wayne	10060	TX	6532
K4YKI	Norman	2166	KY	2268
KB3CVO	Tom	8110	PA	1911
NG6X	David	719	CA	1708
K1GHD	Edward	3490	MA	1568
WA5ICA	Michael	10405	TX	1350
KK5PJ	Dick	7650	TX	1164
W0CZ	Ken	7218	ND	320
KD9B	Dennis	8437	KY	210
K9EW	Edward	11126	IL	30

### **Club Category**

<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Club Name</u>	<u>FISTS#</u>	<u>SPC</u>	<u>Score</u>
KC7EQW	Bruce	Sandia Valley ARC	8675	NM	16995
W8EOC	Fred	Medina 2 Meter Group	10250	OH	15808
K4FFF	Grant	FISTS CW Club of Florida	7000	FL	11456
ND4U	Dennis	Sam Davis Memorial CW Club	10600	TN	4480
W4GAC	John	St. Petersburg A.R.C. SPARC	7875	FL	1140
N5FFF	Wayne	Red Stick FISTS Club	9250	LA	902

# Fall Sprint Soapbox

Dick, KK5PJ TX Fists #7650 A very relaxed, polite, and enjoyable afternoon of CW

James, K9LCK WI Fists #5473 Good conditions. One QSO at 50 watts, all others at 18 watts. Thanks to all who made it possible.

Jeff, WR2E NJ Fists #11052 Sorry I could only operate for an hour, had fun though!

Talley, KH6HHS HI Fists #9579 I would like to encourage more new members to participate in Sprint contests. The FISTS Sprints are not intense as other contests, and most participants are patient and forgiving. I suggest that during Sprint contests, members holding Century awards include that number in addition to their FISTS number.

Craig, K4IA VA Fists #6702 Lots of new FISTS numbers for me. Good to see the turnout. A nice opening to the west on 15 but nothing heard on 80 or 10.

Mike, N0ZD MO Fists #8585 I fired up the rig to make a few casual contacts not realizing there was a contest going on. When I answered Bill's call (W4NML) and he fired back "599 ID Bill 9726" I thought "Uh oh... I'm in the middle of a contest!" I sent Bill my information and ended the contact so Bill could move on. And that is the story of my very first CW contest QSO... ever! I thought, "Well that wasn't so bad" and decided to dive in. I dropped in with little time left in the contest and made about 10 total contacts before time ran out. Ok, I admit it was fun! I've never been a tester, but I'll be back for the Winter Sprint! Thanks Bill!

Alex, KH6HE HI Fists #7423 Very good propagation on 15 meters, not enough time here, doing chores and working contest. Can't wait for next FISTS Sprint. Aloha from Maui

Jimmy, K5POA TX Fists #7062 Fun Sprint! Great place to learn contesting.

Michael, WA5ICA TX Fists #10405 Worked entire contest sitting in my truck in the driveway. Antenna height 40" on the side rail of the truck. 1st Sprint, hope to do many more.

Doug, KY7F MO Fists #7311 Great to hear some new FISTS on the air!

Norm, K4YKI KY Fists #2166 Great condx. Was all set to start at 1700 then got a call for roadside assistance quick as possible from brother-in-law. Lost the hour plus, but wouldn't deny my fellow FISTS a few more points or multipliers. Enjoyed it to the end. Thanks again for compilation of results.

Kenneth, W0CZ ND Fists #7218 Thank you for an easy contest to get my feet wet.

Ron, W8KYD OH Fists #10121 Many thanks for your effort in putting this all together. The Sprint was challenging as usual, especially on 40 meters with the VE SSB and PA QSO Party activity. However, the 25 watts and Windom did surprisingly well on 20 meters resulting in FB exchanges, especially with G3KMG and AD6WL.

Stan, K4UK VA Fists #2934 Since I didn't go to PA I was able to put in a little more time in the Sprint. We did have my 94 year old Mother-in-law visiting with us, so I wasn't able to put in the full 4 hours. Conditions were fair here in Virginia. But I was disappointed to hear no DX members in the Sprint.

John, W4GAC (St. Petersburg A.R.C.) FL Fists Club #7875 I was only able to operate for a couple of hours this



time. I got some visitors to the club and took some time to chat with them. We always seem to get visitors during the Sprints. The bands were not too good. I was happy to hear all the new numbers on the air.

Joe, KB5MM TX Fists #10791 Had a blast. Looking forward to next Sprint.

Buddy, AC5ZQ TX Fists #6820 One of these days I'll be able to sit down for the entire contest. Maybe next time.

William, K4DXU TN Fists #10646 Nice Sprint, got some 6 and 7 calls on 15 and 10 m!

Cecil, K5YQF TX Fists #8077 Had a great time. Bands not too active but 15 was open. Can hardly wait for the Winter Sprint.

Becky, K6EY CA Fists #2961 Always fun!

Ed, K9EW IL Fists #11126 Got my new FISTS number in time for the Sprint, but just caught the tail end. Still had fun, and I'm looking forward to the next one. Used an Argonaut 509 with 4w to a half-size inverted vee.

Dan, KB6NU MI Fists #9342 Another great Sprint! Even worked some DX on 20m.

Bruce, KC7EQW NM Fists #8675 Great Sprint. But, folks are still sending CC#'s!

Thom, KG9LZ IL Fists #5769 It was a great event, and I met more new members than usual. My thanks to everyone who took part, and I hope to see you on the bands.

Dan, KN9X IL Fists #8671 Great participation by members!

Dick, KS0M MO Fists #3607 I spent more time than I expected. Good runs on 40 meters. See you in the winter sprint.

Leroy, N7EIE WA Fists #9926 This was my fourth FISTS Sprint, and most enjoyable so far.

John, VE7NI BC Fists #7935 Only had a couple of hours but had fun. Glad to give BC multiplier!

Wayne, W5KDJ TX Fists #10060 15 & 20 open but bad noise from the N and E on both bands. Bands open to the west but that normal from this QTH. Lot of new folks on this test but showing was pretty low compared to other FISTS contest.

Dick, W5TATX Fists #7889 Fun Sprint even though I didn't do quite as well as last fall. 15 meters was open but not many guys were up there. Things get awfully crowded around 14.058 MHz. I think we need to spread out a little above 14.060 and below 14.055 MHz. Happy holidays and see y'all in February of '05.

David, W7DPW WA Fists #10410 Great contest. Good band conditions, nice weather to be indoors.

Louis, W9IL IL Fists #N/A First FISTS sprint...guess I will have to think about joining! It is a good event.

Andrew, WA3RML TX Fists #9449 Enjoyed the contest. Nice to participate in a relatively "low stress" contest. I stuck to 15M only. Had a great time.

Ray, WB0PYF MO Fists #7986 Had a great time as always, good DX to europe, worked several DX fists. ' We should have a sprint every month.

**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 or email to [nancy@tir.com](mailto:nancy@tir.com). 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](mailto:Ed N7CFA) 2628 Lilac Street, Longview, WA 98632. Lists are available on the FISTS Web page. The search engine feature on the web page is updated more frequently than the text list on the web page.

**HOW DO I GET ON THE FISTS EMAIL LIST?** To receive periodic official Email updates, send your Email address, call sign and FISTS number to Kathi Hilton. [fistelist@comcast.net](mailto:fistelist@comcast.net). If you put your email address on your application, it is automatically added to the list.

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, [irenenken@cs.com](mailto:irenenken@cs.com)- 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038 is our Supply Manager. Our supplies are sold as close to cost as possible We offer: Metallic Gold logo stickers, 200 for \$3.50 I "red heart graphic" CW Stickers, 3/4" round stickers, \$3.50 for 200

Blue enamel cloisonne/gold metal "FISTS CW CLUB" octagon logo pin, with tie-tack type pin back \$1.50  
White enamel cloisonne pin "I (red heart graphic) CW" "FISTS CW CLUB" along edge. 3/4" diameter circle tie-tack type pin on back \$1.50

Embroidered cloth patch of our rectangle key logo, \$1.00. The patches can be ironed on or sewn.

**You may use Paypal to order supplies. Send the total amount to [fists@tir.com](mailto:fists@tir.com) and put the items you would like in the comments box. Be sure your name & address are included.**

**ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. DO NOT ADD POSTAGE TO YOUR TOTAL**

**HOW DO I GET FISTS SHIRTS?** Show the world that you are proud to be a FISTS member. We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, and polo shirts. The front of the t-shirts and sweatshirts are printed in silver:

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 <http://www.fists.org>

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 a couple buttons at the neck. Sizes are small, medium, large, XL, 2XL, and 3XL. 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. Price 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 (TO A LIMIT OF \$7.70 if the order can fit in the USPS "all you can fit in" Priority mailing box for \$7.70.) NOTE: Contact Nancy WZ8C ([nancy@tir.com](mailto:nancy@tir.com)) for non-USA or bulk order postage. **You may order using Paypal.** The email address to use for Paypal is [fists@tir.com](mailto:fists@tir.com). Do NOT use [nancy@tir.com](mailto:nancy@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](mailto:fists@tir.com). This is a limited time opportunity. When the shirts are gone - they're GONE, so get yours now!

**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. Send envelopes to 1020 Long Island Drive Moneta, Va 24121

**HOW DO I SEND APPLICATION OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND?** For a brochure, email Jim AA9LS at aa9ls@turbotoads.com with their name, call sign, and postal address. SASEs are appreciated. Joe's postal address is 33778 Rebecca Rd, Kingston IL 60145 An application is available for downloading on our web page <http://www.fists.org>.

**PAY FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION OF A DX FISTS MEMBER?** Subs for European FISTS, paid from the USA, are \$10/year American Cash. Non-European (Africa etc.) FISTS are \$15/year in US CASH. No International Money Orders, postal money orders or personal checks, cash only. Send it to Geo Longden, 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs BB3 2LZ U.K. CASH ONLY. Don't forget to include the name and address of the DX ham you want to sponsor. They will receive the DX version of the Keynote, which is written and mailed by Geo. For Oceania or East Asia, contact these chapters directly. Geo accepts paypal to [fist1@btinternet.com](mailto:fist1@btinternet.com).

**APPLY FOR AN OPERATING AWARD?** Dennis Franklin K6DF is the Awards Manager. We have many different operating awards. Details are on our web page or in the Keynotes. Dennis's contact information is [fistsawards@comcast.net](mailto:fistsawards@comcast.net) or 4658 Capitan Drive Fremont, CA 94536-5448

**WHAT IS KN0WCW AND 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, KB1DSB ([kb1dsb@sover.net](mailto:kb1dsb@sover.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?**

W3GR, 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 [W3GR@arrl.net](mailto:W3GR@arrl.net). We need ELMERS and Buddies, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! You don't have to be a speed demon to be a Code Buddy, lots of people just want someone to practice with, just like YOU! Code Buddy applications are available on line or from W3GR.

**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. Email: [irenenken@cs.com](mailto:irenenken@cs.com)

**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 Joe Spencer, KK5NA, 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington TX 76016.

**HOW DO I SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE?** Contact Bill KK4KF at [kk4kf@cox.net](mailto:kk4kf@cox.net)

**HOW DO I ORDER FISTS CLUB 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 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 and send it to Nancy WZ8C PO Box 47, Hadley MI or [nancy@tir.com](mailto:nancy@tir.com) Get published Be famous!

***WHAT IS A CC NUMBER? CC stands for Century Certificate. It is the number on your Century Award Certificate. It is exchanged to earn different types of awards. There is NOT a separate "Century Club"***



# **FISTS CW CLUB "DOWN UNDER" Newsletter**

## **– March 2005**

Editor & QSL Manager for ZL: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX, 20 Greenwood Boulevard, R D 1, Otaki 5560, New Zealand Tel: 0-6-364-5202

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Address e-mails for above persons to: [fistsdownunder@ihug.co.nz](mailto:fistsdownunder@ihug.co.nz)

Visit our Web Site : <http://fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>

### SUGGESTED H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

1.808kHz (160M) – 3528kHz (80M) – 7.028MHz (40M) – 10.118MHz (30M) – 14.058MHz (20M)

18.085MHz (17M) – 21.058MHz (15M) – 24.918MHz (12M) – 28.058MHz (10M)

Members are reminded that the above frequencies are suggested calling frequencies. If they are busy, it is suggested that once you establish contact with a station, it may be prudent to change frequency down the band, avoiding other calling frequencies of known clubs.

### U.K. KEYNOTE

Advice has been received from England that George, G3ZQS the Editor of Keynote is still unwell and awaiting an operation in hospital. There will be no March edition of the U.K. Keynote.

### MEMBERS' NEWS

Many thanks to generous donations received from ZL1AYQ – Jim # 9602, ZL2BLQ-Stan # 9068 and ZL2ZLW - Iain # 0012.

G0JLX - Andy # 0308, (FISTS UK Webmaster) reports: - I am off to Ascension Island (ZD8 land) on the 24<sup>th</sup> February for 3.5 weeks, until 21<sup>st</sup> March, just before Easter. I am hoping to get the Call ZD8AD (after my initials) whilst on Ascension, and although operating hours will be limited to a couple, in the evenings (week days), the weekends are a whole different matter. I am hoping to take the new FT-897D / portable up a mountain on the island with the G5RV for some real fun. As I am only going to be running 100 watts at best on HF and 50MHz, you'll have to keep your ears pinned well back for me. I will be working as many stations as I can in the limited hours, in strict rotation. QSL - Via G0JLX (my own call) or the FISTS Bureau please. Finally, there is a good chance I shall be heading towards the deep South of VP8 Land (Falkland Islands) sometime later this year. If the new baby stands the test of this trip then it will accompany me to the Falklands.

### BREAK IN – JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2005

In the January / February 2005 edition of Break In, FISTS Club members are again well represented. In the forthcoming NZART elections ZL1DD -Barry # 9029 is a candidate for President and also as a Councillor for the Northern electoral district. ZL2TW - Stuart # 9086 is a candidate for Councillor for the Central Electoral district.

Stuart also has contributed an article on entitled "Radio Classes – All you wanted to know but were afraid to ask". ZL2BCW - Mike # 9079 contributed an article on "An ersatz carbon microphone for the ZC1". The usual Morseman column by ZL1AN - Gary # 9008 is again a feature. Gary's column is frequently reproduced and quoted in many other amateur radio publications.

The Straight Key Night results for the November 2004 event were posted. Of the 18 logs submitted ten came from FISTS members. First in each of the three classes were: - ZL1AJ, Jack # 9096 (Modern QRP Class), ZL2JJ, Peter # 9624 (Vintage Class) and ZL1DD - Barry # 9029 (Open Class). Barry is the Straight Key Night Manager.

In the last issue of FISTS Down Under we featured an article about Fred Small who obtained his amateur licence at the age of 90. Fred has now the call ZL3FS and has an article about himself in this latest Break In. Remember – you saw it in FISTS Down Under first!

A letter from Graeme Johnston ZL3JO asks all persons who have had a ZL3 call sign from the 1920s to the present time to contact him. He is compiling a history of amateur radio in ZL3 and wants photographs, QSL cards and anecdotes. His e-mail address is [gv0.john@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gv0.john@xtra.co.nz), address as per CBA, telephone 0-3-385-9900

### SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AMATEUR RADIO - SPARC

We have learned about a relatively new organisation, the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio, (SPARC). SPARC is an independent amateur radio forum under the leadership of Walt Fair, W5ALT, Rich Herzer (FISTS #2718), KG2HG, Harry Kohler, N0PU, Bob Rightsell, AE4FA and Charlie Young, AG4YO (FISTS - # 10194).

The Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio promotes itself as a non-partisan group of concerned amateur radio operators working together to ensure the vitality of the amateur radio service. SPARC is open to all interested amateurs, worldwide. They say that they are not in any way connected to the ARRL, although many of us are members of ARRL. Neither are they anti-ARRL, although many of them do not agree with some of the things that the ARRL has done recently. They go on to say that they

are not a national ham radio club, so there is no connection to the IARU, which is an organization of national radio clubs - one per country. They have members from many different countries, with the most active being from the US, Canada, Argentina and Spain. They are open to anyone who is interested and shares their beliefs that ham radio technical and operating skills should be encouraged. They say that as they have only been around a short time, they are still trying to figure out how best to do that, and that anyone's suggestions would be appreciated.

FISTS Down Under - does not formally endorse SPARC but we felt that members should be advised about it. You can find out more about it on the SPARC web site at <http://www.spar-hams.org/>

#### RADIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION - LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

A new web site ([www.radioheritage.net](http://www.radioheritage.net)) has been launched to celebrate the story of radio broadcasting in the Pacific region, and to provide a home for a wide variety of radio heritage activities, exhibitions, archiving, research and advocacy projects covering New Zealand, Australia, the Pacific Islands and reaching as far as countries around the Pacific Rim.

'Radio has a long history in the Pacific' says Radio Heritage Foundation chairman David Ricquish. 'In fact, it's even claimed by some biographers that "Rutherford began what Marconi completed" in which case, New Zealand is the real home of radio broadcasting in the modern age'

Whether New Zealand's Lord Rutherford was indeed the true father of radio instead of Marconi is one of the hundreds of fascinating topics the Radio Heritage Foundation plans to investigate in the near future. Currently, [www.radioheritage.net](http://www.radioheritage.net) contains information about various projects which the Foundation has underway, highlights radio heritage issues, and a selection of articles from its on-line archives project.

'We have hundreds of articles and thousands of images already available from our collections' says David Ricquish, and we'll be bringing these on-line as fast as resources allow. Our definition of "heritage" is anything up to a nano-second ago, so contemporary radio issues are as important to us as those of the 1920's or any other era' he adds.

'Radio has touched every aspect of our lives for almost a century now' says David Ricquish. 'It has a social history, cultural, artistic, technological, heritage, genealogy and entertainment context' he says, 'and this web site, and indeed, the whole project, helps us understand just what the impact of radio on our lives continues to be in the new digital era.'

The Radio Heritage Foundation is a non-profit charity based in Wellington, New Zealand. Board members include prominent broadcasters from New Zealand, Australia and Europe and a growing number of contributors and volunteers located across the Pacific from the USA, Canada and Japan, to Australia and New Zealand.

For more information contact: David Ricquish T: +64 21 631 337 Email: [info@radioheritage.net](mailto:info@radioheritage.net)

#### EXPRESS LANE - CENTURY AWARD

John Kirk - VK4TJ / VE6XT # 9080

The chromosome for competitive behaviours appears to have been bred out of my lineage. Content to do my own thing, I'm the last one you'd expect to find in the dog pile we call the FISTS watering hole on 20 metres. Nonetheless, that's exactly where you will find me most evenings. What prompted the change? Our own erstwhile editor did, with a comment in the recent member survey to the effect that those of us who are not applying ourselves to the acquisition of Century Club status are, by our indolence, depriving more worthy creatures of their coveted Platinum Award! Hmmm...never thought of it that way!

A quick check of the log reveals that, in two years of FISTS activity, I've accumulated a thoroughly underwhelming 25 eligible contacts. Given the current sorry state of sunspots, and a reasonable assumption that the easy pickings are now already in the log, I might not live long enough to complete CC without some form of turbo-boost!

That boost comes in the form of our own membership list, which lists e-mail addresses where available for our members. Some call it cheating - I call it stirring the pot. I proceeded to e-mail members that:

- a) I had not already worked in random contacts, and
- b) Had an e-mail address listed.

Obviously, I quit pestering people once I had the required number of contacts, but here's what you might expect if you decided to emulate my antics:

- Of our 125 or so members, approximately 87 have published e-mail addresses
- Of those 87, 32 will simply not respond to your e-mail at all, leaving 55 possible.
- Of those 55, 2 will be out of the country at any given moment, leaving 53 probable.
- Of those 53, 2 will confess to being so shaky on CW that they decline to QSO, leaving 51.
- Of those 51, 2 will be "too busy", leaving 49.
- Of those 49, 2 will be between QTH's, inactive, or remodelling the shack, leaving 47.

Those 47 are your target market, and, as it turned out, that's exactly how many "real" FISTS contacts, resulted from my efforts. Not enough to clinch the award, you say? Consider this:

- "Out of country" contacts are worth 2 points apiece. From the VK side of the puddle, this is great news, since 62% of our members are going to be 2-pointers. Sorry, Kiwis - you are going to be faced with a considerably harder slog.
- 2 of those calls are official national club calls, worth 5 points apiece. The official custodians of both calls do a GREAT job of keeping the airwaves alive. You WILL - work both of them, don't worry. An enterprising award-hound could legitimately ask each of these stations to momentarily revert to their home calls, netting a whopping 13 points for effectively 2 QSO's.
- If you're lucky enough (I wasn't) to bag the elusive VK4RC & ZL2SWR club calls, they're each worth 3 points.

That adds up to 92 points, Kimosabe, just 8 shy of the coveted century. Four JA's (shootin' fish in a barrel, some say) or G's (G4LHI is ALWAYS on 20 for a Q, hi) and Bob's yer uncle! One FISTS C2C contest weekend, and there'd be no stopping you! At our current rate of membership growth, you will need neither sunspots nor JA's to achieve the exalted heights of Century status. Sign up a few locals and you can manufacture Q's to your heart's content.

I set out on the above epic with considerable trepidation. What if they thought I was weird? What if they were violently anti-contesting/awards? Slap me - I should have known better. To a man (sorry ladies, but you are severely under-represented in our ranks), you all were supportive, considerate, and obliging, in some cases skedding night after night with me until contact was achieved, obviously at considerable personal inconvenience.

We all know in our secret heart of hearts that FISTS members are a cut above the common man (sorry again; ladies), and this exercise has proved it in spades. Many have become good on-air friends, dropping by time and again to enquire on my progress, and directing DX contacts to take a standby for me.

#### Lessons learned along the way:

- ALWAYS write down those CC numbers, even if you are not actively seeking them. The next logical award to chase after CC is platinum, and I'm now faced with having to rework 19 calls as penance for my earlier stupidity.
- Start with the "across the puddle" members first. I foolishly started with the VK's (1-pointers). I could have been there in half the time had I started with the ZL's!
- Read the award rules before you charge off into the sunset - see point 2, above.
- Clear the decks for the annual C2C event. Even with indifferent propagation, you'll put a lot of new calls in the log, many of them overseas club calls.

In summary, it has been a highly rewarding experience, and I recommend it to you. Dunno if it is my imagination or not, but it seems to me that activity begets activity, with more "regulars" showing interest in the FISTS awards program as a result of my prodding. Note that all the above is all doubly true for our newly minted "Fists Down Under Award". I predict that our membership list is going to become the most highly sought-after document in the FISTS world.

Cheating? I think not! On the contrary, it cuts pretty close to the core of what FISTS is all about - reaching out to strangers, and the preservation of a great mode of communication and cultural barrier-crosser.

"Strangers are simply friends that we haven't met yet!"

QNL? QNH? QNZ!

John Kirk, VK4TJ / VE6XT # 9080

Judging by what I hear on the bands, and in particular on our QRP nets, we are all direct lineal descendents of the lost Fagarway tribe, doomed to traverse the savannah grasslands of our ham bands, never knowing quite where we are.

Knowing how to place your transmit signal optimally within the receive passband of a station you wish to contact is clearly a desirable skill to acquire for a QRP'er. Gone are the days when a station CQ'ing will sweep half the band in search of a reply. I'd wager, in fact, that the majority of your contacts won't even know how to correctly employ their second VFO or "split" capability, but what they will know how to use are the increasingly sharp IF and AF filter s in that shiny new Yaecomwood. That makes it imperative that we as QRP'ers reply to a call on precisely the frequency our QSO counterpart expects to hear us on. We're already starting from the back of the pack in the dB race - why handicap ourselves further by replying precisely where he or she is not listening? Surprisingly, a search of available literature reveals that there is little material available on the web or in dead-tree form that can tell us how to achieve this obviously important function, apart from one 12 year-old article in QST, unfortunately too lengthy to reproduce here.

Apart from increasing our success rate, there are a couple of other important reasons to learn the fine art of zero-beating:

- 1) Our motto "Do More With Less" applies just as much to spectrum as it does to power. Two stations in QSO should occupy a single frequency. Period. Any offset between them is wasteful, and reduces the number of conversations that any given band can accommodate.
- 2) An offset may result in "walking" the QSO up or down the band, as each partner attempts to compensate for the transgressions of the other. Sooner or later, this is going to result in a collision with another QSO already in progress.
- 3) It makes for really tiresome listening for any 3rd and 4th parties, who are going to have to give their RIT a workout to stay with you. Check out our own Tuesday evening nets on a noisy night, where the use of 250 Hz filters is practically mandated, and you'll soon see what I mean.
- 4) In extreme cases, lack of knowledge can lead to operation out of band, or in a sub-band for which you have no privileges. Transceivers, even modern ones, lie! Just because it's digital doesn't mean it is accurate!

I dropped the term "zero-beating" into the conversation a moment ago without really defining it. It is a bit of an anachronism, dating from the days when it we all ran "separates", and it was possible to power up the VFO only for a quick frequency match against the incoming signal. Even then, we didn't zero beat - elephants can hear down to 16 Hz, but most of us struggle with 65 Hz or so. While an elephant would make an interesting, if somewhat a high-maintenance shack accessory, I for one am relieved that "beat-matching", carried out at or near an audio frequency we'd contemplate actually listening to, is equally effective.

At this point, I rather imagine I'm expected to serve up the magic bean, which, if ingested, will make all your problems disappear. Unfortunately, it ain't gonna be that easy. Given that:

- there is no accepted standard for which sideband we receive CW on, and
- personal preferences, not standards, dictates what a comfortable beat frequency should be, and
- we have to make special allowances for dual-signal direct conversion receivers, regens and the like, and
- misalignment of the receiver alone might be the root cause, and
- in a simple rig, the frequency offset from TX to RX might actually change from one end of the tuning range to the other, we're going to have to introduce a little science and measurement into the discussion to have a hope in Hades of coming out the other side with an acceptable result.

#### Know Thine Own Rig

This method assumes you have access to a second receiver, ideally a superhet with SSB or better filters. The second receiver can be located at the other end of a telephone or two-metre link, but the operator - should have read and familiarized themselves, with this procedure:

- 1) Learn what a 600 Hz tone sounds like. "Hamcalc" software, available from the CQ Magazine web site<sup>3</sup> contains a program to get any desired tone out of your computer's soundcard. Given that there is no de facto standard for CW tone, we're going to impose one of our making.
- 2) If your receivers offer you a choice of "CW normal" or "CW reverse", choose normal.
- 3) If your receivers contain CW narrow and wide filter, choose wide.
- 4) Turn off any receiver RIT, clarifier and/or IF shift, passband tuning etc., or if there is no clear disable function, move the controls to the centre (usually detented) position.
- 5) Tune in a live 40 metre CW signal on air from the high side, tuning both receivers for a 600 Hz CW tone, or as close as your ear can get you. Most of us can get quite close on this test without having to send our ears back to the lab for calibration – certainly 50 Hz or better, close enough for our purposes. Note both dial frequencies.
- 6) Connect the "device under test" rig to a dummy load. Pretend to answer the live CW "on air" signal. If your TX doesn't produce a 600 Hz note in receiver #2, move your TX frequency around until it does. Note this new frequency. The difference between step 6 and step 5 is your permanent offset, and needs to be applied to every QSO.
- 7) Employing your RIT, apply the amount of offset determined in step 6, and tune in the same CW QSO. Verify that you, the CW QSO, and the second receiver all produce a 600 Hz note. You can determine the RIT setting algebraically, but it's probably easier to just get on and play until the above result is achieved.
- 8) Most rigs are probably OK at this point, but it is a good idea to check an upper HF band as well, as some rigs flip from LSB CW receive to USB CW receive above 10 MHz. Continue to tune signals in from the high side – that's where the majority of us will be listening for you. Worst case, you will end up with two "permanent offsets" – one for 160/80/40, and another for 30/20/17/15/12/10.
- 9) Optional step for simple VFO/XO rigs: perform steps 1 through 7 at either extreme of your tuning range. You may find that the amount of offset required changes from end to end. The only way to cope with this is to devise a simple chart. No RIT and no TX/RX offset? At least now you know why your success rate is so low!

What if you don't personally like 600 Hz? No problem – just remember that, at the end of the day, when performing step 7, your goal is to produce a 600 Hz tone in receiver # 2, and in your QSO partner's receiver. Fiddle the RIT on the "rig under test" to produce this outcome + a comfortable listening tone for yourself in receiver #1, within limits. Extremely low or high tones will cause you strife with narrow IF or AF filters, but it should be possible to accommodate individual preferences and still wind up QNZ.....

One caveat – the above approach does not work for cross-mode QSO's, common on 6 & 2 metres. Learning to plonk your CW signal in the middle of a sideband RX is quite easy, but requires receiver # 2 to be on the appropriate sideband for the band in question.

See you in the grasslands...er, ham bands....somewhere!

1. QNL? : Is my net frequency low?  
QNH? : Is my net frequency high?  
QNZ! : Please zero-beat the net!
2. "Do You Know Where Your CW Signal Is?" - Randy Henderson WI5W, QST, March 1992, p. 40-42.
3. - [www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com)

The VK/ trans-Tasman Contests: (last amendment - 27/07/04)

The exciting 80 metre Contest, will be staged over two nights:

Phone: SAT 21st MAY CW: SAT 4th JUNE

The 160 metres Contest follows in July, and is also staged over two nights:

Phone: SAT 9th JULY CW: SAT 23rd JULY

Each night runs for 6 hours, in 1 hour stages, - long enough to be interesting without being too arduous, and providing constant activity, with stations being reworked each hour.

The main emphasis is on contacts between VK and ZL stations, with the scoring structured to give all stations an equal chance, regardless of their location or time-zone. Bonus points can be earned each hour, and are awarded to encourage trans-Tasman contacts and participation by VK Central and Western zones. As well as Phone and CW, there are QRP Categories, and one on 80M for SWL's.

An engraved trophy will be awarded to the outright winner on both bands, with certificates for winners and place - getters in other Categories.

These Contests are not sprints or marathons. They will provide 6 hours of non-stop evening "entertainment", - that should not intrude too much on family life or sleep time. So, make a note of the details, and give it a go! - Extend your dipoles and hook up your ATU's for the 160M night too! The only thing we ask is that you take the time, to submit your log (even if you don't think you will win). This is essential to make it all worthwhile, and to ensure the on-going success of the Contests.

#### FISTS DOWN UNDER – ARTICLES WANTED

Thinking of writing an article for FISTS Down Under? Please do! Any subject - is welcome, but should preferably be connected with Amateur Radio and especially MORSE CODE.  
Forward your efforts to the Editor in the header on front page.

#### WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Visit the Web Sites of Chris Tran, ZL1CT/GM3WOJ # 9648 to see his beautifully home made Amplifiers and his contesting interests. Go to: [www.qsl.net/zl1v/zl6qh.htm](http://www.qsl.net/zl1v/zl6qh.htm) [www.qsl.net/gm3woj/amps1.htm](http://www.qsl.net/gm3woj/amps1.htm)

## Coming Events:

FISTS SPring Sprint - The Spring SPRINT will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in May. -- May 14.

Dayton Hamvention - May 20, 21, & 22

We need help with the booth. If you'd like to volunteer a couple hours to 'meet and greet' and talk-up FISTS and CW to the masses, drop Nancy WZBC a note. This is a fun opportunity, and it gives Nancy & Irene W0BE a chance to take a break and grab some lunch.

The QRP folks are opening up their block of hotel rooms to FISTS. If you need a place to stay while at Hamvention, contact Hank K8DD at his callbook address or visit

<http://www.usol.com/~k8dd/rooms/rooms.htm>

We will be having a FISTS get-together on Friday night at the hotel.  
Details to follow as time gets closer.

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FISTS CW CLUB

PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

email: [nancy@tir.com](mailto:nancy@tir.com) web page: <http://www.fists.org>

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