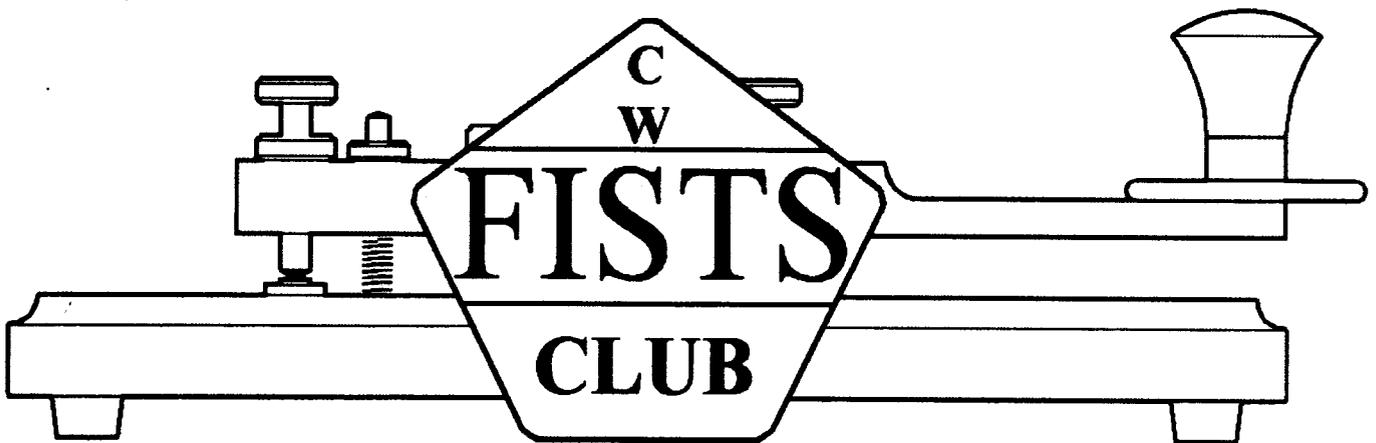


Issue 7 2007

The Keynote

North American Memo
Newsletter of FISTS CW Club
The International Morse Preservation Society



Our Goals:

- ✘ Further the use of CW
- ✘ Encourage newcomers to use Morse code
- ✘ Engender friendships among members

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

When you have a question about FISTS, go to the source for the correct answer.

Posting a question on a chat room or email reflector may result in a lot of opinions, but your best bet is to ask a FISTS volunteer, look in the reference issue, or on our web page

<http://www.fists.org>

Please put the word 'FISTS' somewhere in the title of your email.

This will help the volunteer recognize that your email is important and not spam.

For questions about:

**North American Awards and Certificates contact
Dennis Franklin, K6DF, fistsawards@comcast.net**

The QSL Bureau contact

Stan Reas, K4UK, k4uk@rev.net or see <http://www.fistsburo.org/>

Reserve a time to operate KN0WCW from your home! Contact our club call _trustee.

Karl Zuege, KB1DSB, kb1dsb@sover.net.

The membership roster, call changes, name changes contact

Ed Hayes, N7CFA, n7cfa@msn.com

To get an application or sample Keynote sent to a friend contact

Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, aa9ls@turbotoads.com

Web page changes, getting your personal or club webpage linked, etc contact

Webmaster Bill Myers, KK4KF, kk4kf@cox.net

Club presentation packets contact

Joe Spencer, KK5NA, kk5na@kk5na.com

To change or include your email address on the FISTS email list contact

Kathi Hilton, N0FKA, fistelist@comcast.net (note no "s" in fistelist)

Code Buddy volunteers and buddies contact

Nick Yokanovich, K3NY, & The Historical Electronics Museum ARC w3hem@arri.net

Sprints contact

Dan Sheperd, N8IE, W8PIG@yahoo.com

Get Your Feet Wet Weekend and G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest contact

Lee Hallin, N7NU, hallinl@lanecc.edu

Membership Renewal/New Membership/Keynote (Renewals = \$15/year unless you are 80+ or 18-, then renewals are free. Students over 18 are \$10. Paypal to fists@tir.com. Renewal checks made out to FISTS go to Nancy at FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440.

All other questions, including supplies, tapes for the blind, address changes, general membership questions and articles for the Keynote contact Nancy Kott WZ8C, nancy@tir.com; PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440, phone 810-797-2033, fax 810-797-5808.

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

Congrats to our own Chuck Adams, K7QO, on the wonderful write-up in the Wall Street Journal regarding his CD books in code. As you know, Chuck is the one who made the K7QO code course and allows FISTS to distribute it free of charge (for an SASE). We've given out thousands of these courses. Chuck has a method of 'translating' novels and other books into Morse code, which he then puts on CDs. They are really fun to listen to, and quite challenging.

When I first got a copy of Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz, I thought it would be nice to listen to it while going for my walk - maybe make the walk less boring. It's not as easy as it would seem. The CD was recorded at 30 wpm, which is a bit out of my comfort zone for casual listening, so I found myself stumbling along, not being able to concentrate on where I was walking because I was listening and concentrating so hard at the code. It was like not being able to walk and chew gum at the same time!

The article in the Wall Street Journal was picked up by local papers and also resulted in Chuck being interviewed by National Public Radio (NPR). All this translates into good publicity for Morse code!

The UK FISTS are having a year-long operating event for 2008 to celebrate FISTS 21st anniversary. It doesn't start until February, but I want to make sure you have plenty of notice and since Keynote printing is dependent on having articles to print and that can be sporadic (HINT: SEND IN SOME ARTICLES, PLEASE), having it in this issue assures that the info is out there. The event sounds like a lot of fun - Rob, the UK contest

manager, wants the logs sent in on a flow basis, and he will keep track of them throughout the year and post the scores so everyone can see how they're doing. There will be separate awards for each of the FISTS chapters, so let's have the US have a good showing. Questions about scoring or anything about the contest go to Rob - NOT DENNIS K6DF - his email is on the event info sheet on page 11.

Apparently there is still some confusions among the various post offices about the cost of sending an envelope of QSL cards - Stan, K4UK, discusses this on page 7. There is also a list of people who need to send Self-Addressed Stamped Envelopes (SASE) to the QSL Bureau because they have cards waiting. Since that list may be out of date by the time you read it, check the FISTS Bureau web page for the latest list of envelope providers. There is a link to the QSL Bureau from the FISTS Web page <http://www.fists.org>. Please help our bureau continue to work efficiently by doing your part and sending in your envelopes. If you don't want the QSL cards, let Stan know that too, so he can return them to the sender or throw them out, whatever your preference.

The "Do We Abbreviate Too Much" question from Issue 4/5 caused a lot more talk than I expected. I didn't have room for it all in this issue so I reprinted the question - there is still time to put in your 2 cents worth. What do you think, do we abbreviate too much? 73 88
Nancy WZ8C

Welcome to the New FISTS!**Number Callsign Name State Sponsor**

13378 W1JKP Kenth CT
 13379 KD4ABZ PAT FL K4TWJ
 13380 N9KEV Mark WI
 13381 KB4NS Jon TN
 13382 WC5M MARK LA
 13383 KD0AIN Donald MO
 13384 AJ8T Ted MI
 13385 KD8CGT Thad MI
 13386 AB1HL Robert MA
 13387 K2DRN DAVID NJ
 13388 W1WCG Van CT
 13389 N5JDM George TX
 13390 N9AYE Phillip MI
 13391 KI6FOM DONALD CA
 13392 WA0ITP Terry IA
 13393 W4OEQ TOM TN
 13394 K0JM FRANK SD
 13395 KE5DPI PAUL NM
 13396 K5ENL ERNIE TX
 13397 KD8GJY JARED OH WA8AJF
 13398 KB2VFX DAN NY
 13399 WD8QXT DON OH KX8B
 13401 W5CPP PETE TX
 13402 WD8PKF AL IA K8NA
 13403 W1SKI SKI NH
 13404 N1RDO MARTHA ME N1CO
 13405 AA9EQ BRADLEY IL AA9LS
 13406 KB1OCK BRUCE MA
 13407 W9TTT MATT IA
 13408 WA9QJH HANK WI
 13409 N2TS TONY FL
 13410 W7CHG PAUL AZ
 13411 WS2WWV TONY NY W2FAM
 13412 VE2FET Sylvain Quebe
 13413 W7SID SID WA
 13414 AI8R MARK OH
 13415 K2LFP PAUL CT
 13416 N8FIQ Lynn MI
 13417 WA6GQI BILL CA W7GVE
 13418 K9JWV JIM UT W8EQA
 13419 WB4LWE WALTER FL
 13420 WY4O JERRY FL
 13421 N5WBI STEVE TX
 13422 KC0SAL ANDY MN
 13423 WC7C DOUG WA
 13424 K7UIJ MIKE WA
 13426 KD8EVT KRIS OH
 13427 KI4ODO Marvin NC

Number Callsign Name State Sponsor

13428 W5AJD JERRY LA
 13429 K0GZR JESSE KS WB0NQM
 13430 N5SUM BILL NM
 13431 N8IW DAVE OH
 13432 KB2BHW TIM NY K4UK
 13433 K2HN James NY
 13434 K0DXC CALVIN MN
 13435 KC0I RON AL
 13436 K5BGB Rod TX
 13437 K0KK RICHARD IA KC0VKN
 13438 W5FH LOWELL IA KC0VKN
 13439 KC9LEZ SKIP IL
 13440 K6XZ DAVE CA
 13441 N5IE Michael VA
 13442 AI4GE Robert FL
 13443 WA6SXN BRUCE NV
 13444 WA3CJL BOB PA
 13445 NC4NIV JERRY TN
 13446 KW4H STEVE VA
 13447 KE6YX DAVID CA
 13448 K9CNP HAROLD IL
 13449 WB6N TERRY SD
 13451 N4LH BILL KY
 13452 K0XTR SCOTT CO
 13453 KB3OXG LOU PA
 13454 K7DD MIKE AZ
 13455 AA0NI Daniel OK
 13456 WA9RUX BOB WI
 13457 KC9KRG FRANK IL
 13458 W2EP PAUL FL
 13459 WB8NNJ JIM OH
 13460 KX8C JIM OH
 13461 KT4TT JERRY OK
 13462 KC0ZLR ED CO
 13463 KE5NWS ART OK
 13464 AB2EW STEVE NY
 13465 N8XCT JOE OH
 13466 KA3OHF JAMES DC
 13467 KI4SFX JIM VA
 13468 AI8P DENNIS OH
 13469 WB0PTO NICK MN
 13470 KC0PWA RYAN KS
 13471 KB6J AL CA
 13472 WA2TGE MIKE SC
 13473 W0WGB WILLIAM MN KA8HFN
 13474 KD5IEF ZAC TX
 13476 WA3HIC JAMES MD
 13477 W4TY ART VA

Number	Callsign	Name	State	Sponsor
13478	WA8WTZ	CHUCK	MI	
13479	VA3UMP	Mark	ON	
13480	KA2MLH	WILLIAM	IL	WB2FXK
13481	N8DWS	KEN	OH	
13482	K5ZBY	TERRY	TX	
13483	AD7KG	JED	UT	
13484	NI7W	TOM	ID	
13485	WX5CW	CHRIS	LA	
13486	N0EK	ED	ND	
13487	AI5F	DICK	NM	AK5D
13488	KA8LEJ	THAD	OH	
13489	KC2QKU	JOE	NJ	
13490	N0JRN	JERRY	MO	
13491	WZ4CW	CARL	GA	
13492	AC6NN	Craig	VA	
13493	K3BM	BOB	PA	
13494	KC2OJZ	LARRY	NJ	N2JFF
13495	K6QXG	JON	CA	
13496	KI4HGO	DAN	FL	
13497	K7GSE	FRANK	WA	
13498	W3RT	RED	PA	
13499	KA1ZIA	MARK	MS	
13501	W0VHH	HAROLD	OH	WB2FXK
13502	AB3ED	BOB	PA	
13503	AH6EZ	DICK	IL	KB9YSI
13504	WA3ZBJ	Donald	FL	
13505	KE7GYQ	DOUG	AZ	
13506	KI4EYC	FRED	TN	
13507	WA4OUR	LEGRAND	GA	WB2FXK
13508	K5BQV	TOM	AR	
13509	W1VB	VERN	MA	
13510	N8YT	Jim	OH	
13511	KI4YKB	LARRY	FL	
13512	K9DXA	HARRY	IL	
13513	K0CRX	Michael	MN	
13514	KC2RYT	ALAN	NY	
13515	WA7HYD	BOB	WA	K7GSE
13516	N3NL	NICK	VA	
13517	KN1W	Luis	NH	
13518	WA7ETH	ED	WA	
13519	W2DWW	CHARLES	GA	
13520	W4YIH	GORDON	FL	
13521	KF7P	CHRIS	UT	
13522	KC7QR	BOB	ID	
13523	N9RZL	GALE	WI	
13524	N0DGC	BOB	AZ	WZ8C
13526	KB2SER	JOHN	NY	

Missing FISTS

Listed below are the FISTS members whose mail bounced back to me as Undeliverable for one reason or another. Their subs are current, but I need to get their updated addresses to ensure their Keynote delivery, which I have suspended pending address correction. If you run into them on the air or know them, please have them contact me with their current address. I've tried telephoning, emailing and QRZ, so this is the last resort. Thanks! Nancy@tir.com

K3UFG DAN
 KB8TMR ESTHER
 AC4AS JAMES
 W71ST Justin
 K6SWF Stephen
 KC6IJE Tim
 AA4NG Fred
 KB7SVA Dave

Correction

In the reference issue Paul #9362 is incorrectly listed as KD5MY. He is actually KD5MYU.

COME BACK TO CODE

It's OK to be Re-Morse-Ful
"Be Re-Morse-Ful" -

Bill N2COP 11622

The Gift of Life

Having just celebrated the 20TH anniversary of my first heart transplant (April 1987), I am acutely aware of the shortage of donor organs. After having my first transplanted heart until 2000, I needed a retransplant later that year.

Currently 92,000 people await the Gift of Life and the list is getting longer every month. The chance to live a better life, watch their children grow, or start their own new lives. I have been very fortunate to see these things and do these things. Some very good and some not so good, but I wouldnt have missed either.

The time to talk about this with your family is now, before the tragedy occurs and you have to make that decision.

I have met both my donor families and have been speechless because of their generosity. I know I will never understand the depth of their loss, I only hope that it is eased by their kind and generous gift to others.

Life is Good: PASS IT ON.

If your intersted in learning more about donation, you can go to <http://www.unos.org/> for more information.

Bill Lueck , W9B0K , Fists nr 4913

AMATEUR RADIO STATION LOG **W9B0K**

WRITE POWER TO LAST STAGE 10 WATTS
FREQUENCY 2.850 MHz
TYPE OF PROGRAM

DATE	STATION CALLED	CALLS	STATION HEARD	BY WHICH	MY BAND	TIME OF	ARRIVAL	DEPART	REMARKS
1987	W9B0K	W9B0K	W9B0K	W9B0K	20M	1947	1947	1947	TRANS. OHIO STATE UNIV. U.S.A.

Log above is my first contact on July 11, 1947 when I was a 16 year old youngster operating from my home in Cleveland Heights, Ohio



And, I'm still enjoying this most fascinating world wide hobby.



1023 Long Island Drive
Morristown, VA 24121

K4UK now continues QSO with... during the 60th Anniversary week of his first QSO as an Amateur Radio Operator

MONTH / DAY / YEAR TIME UTC FREQ. ZONE RPT

Hit and Run QSOs Give FISTS a Bad Rep

This is an on-going battle. I don't think it will ever be resolved, but in hopes that some of our hard-core hit-and-run QSO'ers will take a minute to chat, here is a letter that sums it up pretty nicely. WZ8C

My name is Jerry McCarthy, FISTS #5728...

Due to age related health problems and the lack of an antenna, I have been rather inactive lately, but I listen.

I receive the Elecraft email reflector and read some rather disturbing reports about FISTS members calling "CQ FISTS". This calling procedure has caused some concern for non-members who are reluctant to answer the CQ FISTS caller. It became obvious to me a long time ago that many FISTS members have turned their membership into a daily contest, trying to collect as many FISTS numbers as possible..To the dismay of many CW operators, they keep their QSO's short and sweet and quickly move on. I think that this is counter to the original intentions of G3ZQS and FISTS and makes us exclusionary, turning off potential members who otherwise might be interested in joining us. In that context, CC certificates and the like are not helping us with our intended goal of keeping CW alive and well, I am as guilty as anyone, I have a CC # but I would like to think that I have been enlightened now.

Many of us casual operators abhor contests and the rude attitude of some contesters, yet we are engaging in like behavior ourselves, EVERY DAY! I think it is rude to call "CQ FISTS", get an answer, quickly swap numbers with the guy, sign with him and immediately call "CQ FISTS" again. I hear that happen every day. We have a lifetime to collect those CC numbers. It does not need to be done in a hurry. I suggest that the membership be alerted in the Keynote and be asked to lighten up...73

Jerry, WA2DKG FISTS # 5728

Congrats to Stan K4UK on his 60 year anniversary as a ham. He created this special card for the occasion. I hope you were lucky enough to work him and get one of the cards!

Confusion in the new Postal Rate Structure

I fear some of the Post Offices around the country are having a tough time understanding the new rates and restrictions.

It cost Dick, W7DAX a full \$1.30 to send us 12 cards in a # 10 business size envelope. His envelope weighed 1.7 ounce and his Post Office people said it had to be shipped as a "First-Class Parcel". And we received a 6" X 9" envelope from Bob, KK5ZA with 13 cards in it and it also had \$1.30 postage on it.

I've contacted our Moneta Post Office and they believe these envelopes do NOT require that amount of postage. They felt the postage should have been 58 cents based solely its 1.7 ounce weight. Or, should have been no more than 75 cents based on 58 cents for the weight and 17 cents for being non-machinable.

To minimize your mailing costs it might be a good idea to visit your Post Office with a quantity of cards and various envelope sizes in hand. Have them use their scales and the criteria published in the new United States Postal Service Notice to determine how many cards can be sent for what cost.

If your QSL cards are the "normal" 3-1/2" x 5-1/2" size, you might want to use the Personal Size envelope - 3-5/8 inch high by 6-1/2 inch long to mail cards to us because the envelope would be uniformly thick. And the "non-machinable" criteria would not apply.

We do still need #10 Business Size envelopes for your SASE's so that we can put any oversized cards in them. When we prepare them for mailing we will interleave the cards so as to minimize the variation in thickness.

There is confusion throughout the Postal Service over the changes which have been made this year. Check the FISTS QSL Bureau web site for the most up-to-date information that we get.

73, Stan - K4UK

FISTS QSL Bureau

1020 Long Island Drive

Moneta, VA 24121 www.fistsburo.org

FISTS Members who have 2 or more QSL cards in the Bureau but have not yet furnished any SASE's.

(number of cards waiting is after the call sign)

"1" Calls (Status as of 10/6/07) AA1CR,2 KB1MNO,2 KG1W,4 N1IIX,4 N1PQ,2 N1YDX,3 W1XP,4 W1ZT,3 WA1NTA,3

"2" Calls (Status as of 10/6/07) AB2FG,2 AC2K,2 K2AX,3 K2WO,4 KC2IOD,4 KC2OBS,3 KX2H,2 N2FQ,5 N2IMO,2

"3" Calls (Status as of 10/6/07) K3TEL,2 KN3JLJ,2 W3GOE,2 WA3SCM,2

"4" Calls (Status as of 10/6/07) AC4XG,2 AG4NN,3 K4NAB,2 K4QS,3 K4SSD,2 KC4FLT,2 N4UEB,2 W4QO,2 W4TI,2 WA4EEZ,2 WJ4O,2

"5" Calls (Status as of 10/6/07) AK5D,2 K5JUC,4 K5NOW,2 K5SEE,4 K5WLQ,2 K5WNU,2 K5WQG,2, KA5IXR,2 KD5TLC,3 KG5I,2 N5BO,3 N5WVR,2 W5AHS,2 WB5BNV,3 WB5NUK,2

"6" Calls (Status as of 9/26/07)

WA6SEU,4

"7" Calls (Status as of 10/4/07)

AA7LR,2 K7JBQ,2 K7VQ,4

KF7G,4

N7KE,2 W7DCS,2 W7YCW,3

WA7ZBL,2

WB7ELZ,2 WR7K,2

"8" Calls (Status as of 10/4/07)

K8AQM,2 K8ASA,3 K8JRO,2 KA8DZU,3 KD8CVL,2

W8AJF,2 W8DL,2 W8JSY,2 WA8OKR,2 WB8WZO,3

WU8V,3

"9" Calls (Status as of 10/6/07)

K9AAF,2 K9JP,2 K9PWK,2 KB9AU,3 KB9YSI,2 KB9ZBN,3

KC9KOJ,2 N9TNQ,2 W9MSL,2 WI9M,2

"Ø" Calls (Status as of 10/4/07) KØBXB,3 KØUZA,2

KØVMQ,3 KØYCO,3 KKØKS,2 NØNBD,3 NØVMP,2

WØNW,2 WØSK,2 WØUFC,2

If your call is here, we have used your last SASE as of the Status date. So, please send some more SASE's

Number of cards waiting are after the call sign

"1" Calls (Status as of 10/6/07) AA1LL,2 K1AYZ,2 K1LGG,2 K1SEZ,2 KB1LBP,2 KC1DI,4 N1BT,2 N1PVP,2 NS1W,3 W1DBD,3 WE1C,2

"2" Calls (Status as of 10/6/07) AE2L,3 K2AKW,2 KC2AFK,3 KC2EE,3 KC2LYQ,3 N2ESE,2 WB2EDO,2

"3" Calls (Status as of 10/6/07) KA3P,2 W3CEB,2

"4" Calls (Status as of 10/6/07) AG4OG,2 K4LTY,4 K4SPR,3 K4TWJ,3 K4VD,3 KC4KNN,3 KD4FLO,2 KE4QZB,2 KI4CIA,2 KU4BT,2 N4PGJ,5 NU4N,4 WN4BOT,2

"5" Calls (Status as of 10/6/07) AC5SH,2 K5LYT,2 N5EYX,2 N5GLR,5 N5PHT,4 N5XE,2

"6" Calls (Status as of 9/26/07) KO6Z,4

"7" Calls (Status as of 10/4/07) W7DO,2 WB7AVF,2

"8" Calls (Status as of 10/4/07) KZ8J,5 W8LKY,3

"9" Calls (Status as of 10/6/07) K9LCK,2 K9QVB,2

KG9ML,2 N9TMU,2 W9CBT,4 W9CC,2

"Ø" Calls (Status as of 10/4/07) ABØCW,3 KØPN,4 KØTTT,2 KAØYXX,3 KCØCGR,2 KDØV,7 NØEVH,4 NØMNO,3

WØGV,2

Canadians (Status as of 10/6/07) VA3KEW,2

The "Sapallo"

Written by David "SAP" Beckler and Al Gallo
(also published in WorldRadio Magazine)

The fun of ham radio and the way it evolved was to be an experimental hobby. Designing radios, antennas, or just finding other means to communicate has always been the goal of Amateur Radio Operators. This story is about two hams that sometimes take things to extremes to accomplish a goal and have fun doing it.

The "Sapallo" key, named after its two inventors David Beckler, WA0SAP and Al Gallo, W0ERE, all started on our first trip to the Dayton Hamvention 2007. This trip evolved by invitation from Icom Corporation to speak at their booth about the success of our Special Event Station, "W0S", The 95th Anniversary of the Titanic Disaster. Actually, there were four hams involved in the Special Event Station, including Rich Vogt, KB9YZE and Rod Kittleman, K0ADI. We call ourselves the "Titanic Four" a spin off of the Beatles "Fab Four", and can view our website at www.w0s.org.

So our trip began from Nixa, MO on Thursday afternoon before Dayton's opening on Friday, minus Rich Vogt (some people just have to work). We packed up the SUV and Fred Bell, N0LU took

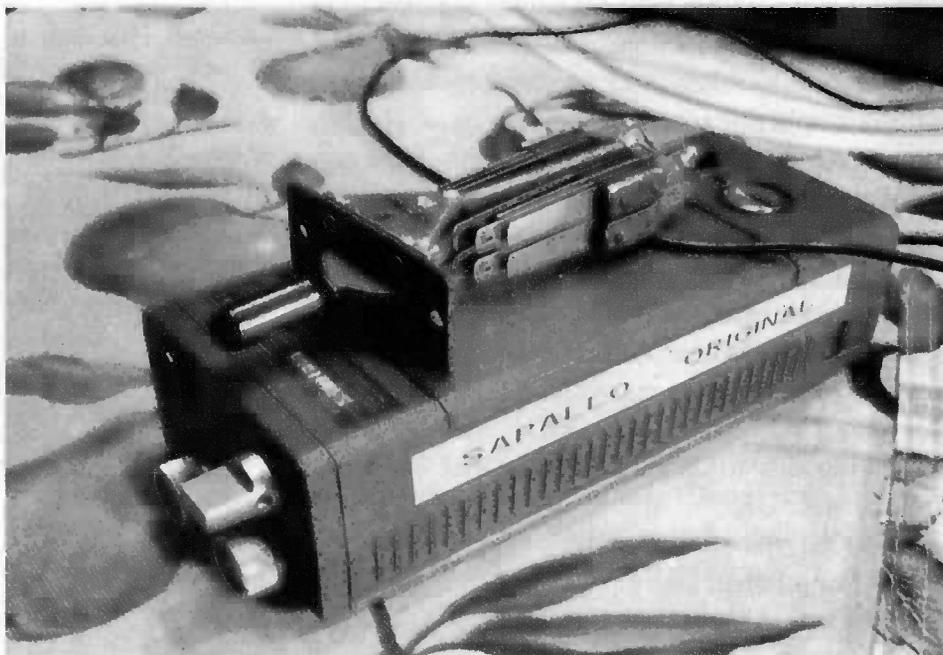
Rich's spot to balance out the seating arrangements in the SUV. Al Gallo and "SAP" were in the back seat with Al's Yeasu FT-817 QRP rig. Al made up a 20-meter wire to be fished out the rear window of the SUV as we traveled down the Interstate.

The antenna wire was flapping wildly behind the vehicle as we tried to maintain the speed limit, if not slightly above, to keep the antenna wire off the ground.

Al began sending CQ with the code keys on the microphone with two watts of power. If you are not familiar with the FT-817 and its code keys, you have to use your thumbs to send the dits and dahs off the microphone with the two buttons. It does not take long before you become all thumbs in sending, just from the sheer pain of pressing the buttons.

Swapping the rig back and forth between the two of us, I thought surely we are doing all this in vain, there is no way anyone will ever hear our puny signal from the flapping antenna. After several minutes of transmitting we tuned around only to hear a station, WU1ITU calling CQ and creating a pile up. So Al gives him a call, feverously pressing the buttons on the mike, his thumbs already indented from numerous attempts trying to make contacts before. All of a sudden, "Wait, he's calling us, HE'S CALLING US" Al says, and sure enough W0ERE was in QSO with WU1ITU with a 599 signal. The SUV erupted with joy, no one could believe this was actually working, except for Al, he has the faith, or a hard head, you make the call.

It was not too long after "SAP" and Fred made separate contacts with WU1ITU and we were back on the air trying to contact more stations. Within time we had made two more contacts before our thumbs were toast.



After giving our speeches at the Icom booth, Al and I decided that we needed a key for the FT-817, so we could send faster and save our poor worn out thumbs for the trip back. So off to the bone yard we went, on a mission to find parts to build a key. Sure, we could have bought a key, but that's not what hams do, we are innovators OK, touched. Plus, we had money to spend on other things.



So we started out looking for something to make a key with, anything other than pressing those darn buttons again. Before long, Al hollered, "Hey 'SAP'", come over here, look at this.' Al found some old telephone PBX switching relays for 25 cents each. "Do you think we can make a key out of this using the relay contacts?" I thought sure why not, so after plunking down a quarter, off we go to find solder for fifty cents and a brand new cheapie 30 watt soldering iron for a dollar. A little borrowed wire, an old HT body given to us, and a dollar and seventy-five cents later, we were set to complete our mission later that night.

It did not take long after tinning the new soldering iron, Al and

"SAP" wired up the relay contacts. Plugged it into the 817 and with a Leatherman transformer tool set we adjusted the relay contacts for the perfect separation for transmitting. Before long we had that thing sending CW at 20 WPM with ease. The touch and feeling was unbelievable. Watch out Vibroplex, there's a new key in town.

We mounted the relay on the old HT body from the bone yard. The two knobs have no effect on the keying, but it sure adds to the mystery of this strange key. On the way back home, the QSOs were much better since our speed and accuracy were enhanced. We needed a name for this new key and Rod decided we should name it the "Sapallo", after "SAP" and Gallo's last name, and the rest is history.

Thinking that this is the end of the story is not true. Al's next idea was to see if the "Sapallo" could send under water. He put the key in the kitchen sink full of water and sure enough, perfect CW underwater. With all the fresh water lakes in the Ozarks of Missouri, our next venture is to make a flotilla for an antenna while we make a CW contact under water. Any one have an inner tube vertical and a snorkel?



Silent Keys

W0ZL

Bill Cramer, # 12631, of Overland Park KS. No information is available.

N5CLM

N5CLM-Greg Molyneaux, #10655, became a Silent Key yesterday in Roswell, NM. Greg N5CLM, was killed Saturday in a tower climbing incident. If you knew Greg, you know that he was fun-loving ham who would do anything he could to help & encourage you. He worked as a cowboy south of Tinnie, NM moving to a farm south of Roswell last year following his marriage to Trish. Their joyful wedding was held at the Cloudcroft Hamfest in June 2006 with K5ONE officiating. Greg was wearing a FISTS t-shirt that said: "Know CW Ham."

Greg was a friend to all & never met a stranger. He had a wonderful laugh & boundless energy. As he shared his stories of rattlesnake encounters, chicken & chicken hawks, coping with hunters on the ranch, fixing water pumps & water leaks, etc., we felt like we were there with him.

As we each deal with our own grief, it is multiplied as we think of Trish & Greg's mother, and their loss. You see, Greg always had time for a word of encouragement & a listening ear. My first eyeball QSO with Greg was at the 2006 Cloudcroft Hamfest & I found his enthusiasm to be contagious. Returning in 2007, I found Greg "holding court" with hams gathered around & Greg was gesturing about & laughing as all sorts of topics were covered.

73 to you Greg...a real know CW ham...I look forward to a grand reunion when we meet again on the other side of Jordan.

God Bless es 73 N5CLM N5CLM N5CLM DE
K5AVJ SK

Do We Abbreviate too Much? From Issue 4/5

I would like the opinion of any and all of the members about this issue.

I have been operating CW for the past 45 years and I feel that code is the backbone of ham radio. Over the years I have always noticed many hams like to use abbreviations when communicating with another ham. I don't have a problem with some of the abbreviations like - trnx or tnk for thanks, agn for again, cul for see you later, and others that are used a lot.

What I have problems is that in recent years it seems that many hams have to abbreviate every or almost every word. The problem is when you are listening to code; a rhythm develops between the two or more operators. When that rhythm is interrupted because the other person has to stop and tries to decipher what was sent, the rhythm is broken and the conversation becomes a bust.

I realize that abbreviations are important if we were in some kind of emergency when it is important to get as much information sent in the shortest amount of time, then the use of abbreviations are fine.

However most of the conversation is centered on each others interest and I feel the over use of abbreviations causes the experience of using code to be more of an effort than a positive experience.

The code speed I enjoy is about 18 to 25 wpm and at that speed you can just listen and understand what is being sent. I realize that the faster operators that can send and receive around 30 to 50 wpm hear words and not letters. I have never achieved a level where I hear words.

If code is to survive the technical age, then it has to be fun for all. I just feel that sending correctly spelled out words makes the experience more enjoyable.

If you would like to send me an e-mail of your opinions I would like to hear from all of you who are interested in responding. My e-mail address: rel3005@yahoo.com

73 Rick WB0NQM # 10510

FISTS Worldwide 21st ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITY

<p><u>DATES</u> <u>TIMES</u> <u>BANDS</u> <u>POWER</u> <u>OUTPUTS</u></p>	<p>The months of: February. April. June. August. October. & December 2008. All times UTC. 1.8MHz – 30MHz. Class “A” QRO Max TX Output 100 Watts Class “B” QRP Max TX Output 5 Watts (LOGS must show Class of entry)</p>
<p><u>CALL</u></p>	<p>“CQ FISTS ” ON RECOMMENDED FISTS FREQUENCIES. +/- (160m) 1.818MHz-(80m) 3.558MHz-(40m) 7.028MHz-(20m) 14.058MHz-(15m) 21.058MHz (10m) 28.058MHz (Observing your Countries Band plan) (All frequencies +/- If working QRO be aware of the recognised QRP frequencies!) NO WARC BAND OPERATION!</p>
<p><u>EXCHANGE</u></p>	<p>CALL-NAME-QTH-FISTS NR.</p>
<p><u>GENERAL</u></p>	<p>Only Fists members will count for points in the activity. A member can only be claimed ONCE on each band. 1 point for each member worked. (National club calls=5 points. Member clubs=3 points)</p> <p>When you’ve worked 21 DIFFERENT members on a particular band you can double the points. (21 points becomes 42 points) If you decide to remain on that particular band, you must work another 21 DIFFERENT members before gaining double points again. Or move on to another band.</p> <p>At the end of the activity, you may count each band that you’ve worked 21 or more members as a multiplier. Example: M9XYZ works 30 members on 160m = 51 points. 21 members on 80m = 42points. 21 members on 40m = 42 points. 17 members on 20m = 17 points. Total points = 152 x 3 = 456points.</p>
<p><u>LOGS</u></p>	<p>To include: DATE-CALL-BAND-QTH-FISTS NR-POINTS CLAIMED. Logs are to be submitted after the active sessions by the 10th of the following months. (IE After February session, log to reach me by the 10th March & so forth.) Ongoing results published on my Web-site www.m0bpt.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk and in Keynote throughout the year.</p>
<p><u>FORMATS ACCEPTED</u></p>	<p>Excel. (Preferred) csv. MS Word/Works. Open Office. Notepad. WordPad. Etc. Paper logs, floppy disc, CD Rom are accepted as are photocopies of your logbook (Readable please)</p>
<p><u>SEND TO</u></p>	<p>Email: m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk Post: R.D.Walker 125, Devereux Road, West Bromwich. West Midlands. B70 6RQ. ENGLAND. (Final return to be received no later than the 31st January 2009)</p>
<p><u>AWARDS</u></p>	<p>Overall winner: (Most recorded points) Plaque with Call, Name, and Year. Etc. Awards will be available for each FISTS Chapter. i.e. FISTS EU Award, FISTS NA Award, FISTS DU Award. And FISTS EA Award Certificates for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in both classes after the overall winner.</p>

SPRING SPRINT RESULTS

Hello fellow FISTS!

Hope everyone is enjoying their Spring/Summer season. The bands seemed to favor this contest for the most part. A lot of FISTS were worked!

73 Dan, N8IE FISTS #4985 Sprint Manager

QRO Category

Call	Name	FISTS#	State	Score
N2ED	Ed	2454	NJ	29040
K7NM	Lee	8233	UT	19355
K8IJ	Charlie	8096	KY	17745
K4BAI	John	2158	GA	17675
K8PP	Fred	1495	OH	15876
WB2MIC	Jozef	12313	VT	14663
KG4W	Ed	12448	VA	14198
W4MY	Marty	10945	NC	13361
W8EQA	Dan	2469	UT	12224
K7TQ	Randy	3251	ID	11910
W4KPG	Eric	10774	FL	8400
N5DY	Jack	11105	OK	8216
W7JI	Louis	11079	KS	8092
K8VFR	Rosemarie	5602	MI	6650
W3EQ	Ken	6521	MD	6641
K5YQF	Cecil	8077	TX	5688
WB8RFB	John	6844	IL	5434
K9UQN	Don	4718	IL	4554
KU8T	Tom	10163	IN	3718
W7GVE	Ed	12077	AZ	3094
AE0G	Larry	12874	NE	2940
AB1BW	George	10794	CT	2682
KK0I	Jack	12743	WI	2603
K5POA	Jimmy	7062	TX	2466
KD2MX	Paul	12042	NJ	2320
KB6NU	Dan	9342	MI	2295
K0LWV	Larry	2589	MO	2223
N9AMW	Rich	12336	WI	1819
W4KRN	Karen	2407	VA	1800
KS0M	Dick	3067	MO	1725
AA3II	Jerry	9746	PA	1568
K5ICW	Hank	8180	TX	1530
K7WF	Stu	1493	WA	1520
W1PDI	Tom	11434	OH	1300
WB0B	Larry	2916	IA	1200

Call	Name	FISTS#	State	Score
WB4JJJ	Alan	2433	VA	1105
K9LCK	James	5473	WI	825
VA3RKM	Robert	11797	ON	825
AI4IC	Kay	11779	TN	792
WB2FXX	Jack	918	NY	750
W5TB	Doc	5365	TX	630
W5MPC	Michael	12692	MS	585
N6IV	Mark	4056	CA	550
KC8YFG	Bruce	10521	MI	500
VE2AWR	Serge	10370	QC	480
N4RE	Rick	8806	NC	416
N1VWD	Bradford	2446	VT	315
W5VDM	William	12127	TX	252
K6BBQ	Rem	12949	CA	225
KB9YGD	Norman	100	IN	20

Club Category

Call	Club	FISTS#	ST	Score
W8EOC	Medina Two Meter Group	10250	OH	29360
W9VT	Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club	11875	IL	13055
W4FFF	FISTS Club Of North Carolina	9700	NC	8848
W2FAM	FISTS Along The Mohawk	12650	NY	7904
W7MRC	Maltby Radio Club	11800	WA	6336
N2MO	Ocean Monmouth ARC	11400	NJ	6116
WA7YYY	Cowlitz FISTS ARC	1900	WA	5434
N5FFF	Red Stick FISTS Club	9250	LA	1122

QRP Category

Call	Name	FISTS#	State	Score
N9FC	John	8069	IN	8649
W0JFR	John	11827	CO	6095
K4OSO	Milt	11383	VA	3717
NE5DL	David	10285	TX	3150
K9XL	Ray	8469	IL	2790
N5DRB	Dennis	11297	AR	2329
N2ZHF	Randy	2151	NY	770
W9UQB	Mike	3687	AZ	440
KK5NA	Joe	3517	TX	376
N5KEV	Kevin	11320	NM	280
N3HU	Rob	12996	MD	80

Spring Sprint Soapbox

George, AB1BW, CT FISTS #10794 I'd like to thank all of the fast operators who slowed down for me. It goes without saying that FIST members are among the most considerate ops on the air. Most of my contacts were made on 20 and 40 meters, however, I did make a few on 10 and 15 as well. I had fun and am looking forward to the summer sprint.

Kay, AI4IC, TN FISTS #11779 Not at all competitive, but really enjoyed the sprint.

Milt, K4OSO, VA FISTS #11383 My first QRP SPRINT. Lots of fun working 20m and 40m. Didn't hear any DX, at least not in our "test". Bands got quite noisy after the storm passed through. Managed to salvage 2-1/2 hours of the SPRINT.

Cecil, K5YQF, TX FISTS #8077 Another nice afternoon. The challenge at my QTH was mostly the long slow QSB fades especially during the last 2 hours. Also I didn't seem to have any propagation to California. I'm looking forward to the Summer Friday evening event for a really different experience.

Lee, K7NM, UT FISTS #8233 Great exercise with good to "roller coaster" conditions. Even 15m had some activity and East Coast stations were heard on 40m, which was uncharacteristically quiet. A lot of fun!

Charlie, K8IJ, KY FISTS #8096 As always - great fun with a great group. Thanks to all.

Dan, KB6NU, MI FISTS #9342 I just wasn't into it as much this year as in the past. Still, it was fun.

Norman, KB9YGD, IN Only 2 qso's but it was fun es tnx all es 73 .

Paul, KD2MX, NJ FISTS #12042 Pretty good activity for a gorgeous spring Saturday. Intermixed FISTS with the Mid-Atlantic QSO Party and some outdoor time.

Dick, KS0M, MO FISTS #3067 I took 3 hours out of the VOLTA RTTY contest to work this one. I enjoy the Sprints very much. Propagation was not the best. I could not get a run going from my CQ's.

Robert, VA3RKM, ON FISTS #11797 K2, 12w, vertical and dipole. Only had an hour. It was well spent. Thanks for the Qs!

Paul, NG7Z, op of W7MRC, WA FISTS #11800 Now that was an exxercise in stamina!! I don't know how the bands were in other places in the country, but they were atrocious here inthe Pacific northwest. Not many strong signals to work. I was pleased to makea few contacts on 15 and 40 meters though all in all, a disappointing outing. Fared much better in the Winter Sprint. Thanks for all the Q's and 73.

Alan, WB4JJJ, VA FISTS #2433 Band was mostly dead here except for static crashes.

John, WB8RFB, IL FISTS #6844 Conditions were not too good and it seemed there were very few stations on. I ended early as chores were calling. Hope to see more on the air for the summer event.

SUMMER SPRINT 2007 RESULTS

Hello fellow FISTS!

Hope everyone had a great summer. Here in SW Ohio it was a long, hot, and dry summer. This Sprint was another good one, and we had a visit from the other side of the planet. John, VK4TJ managed to work a few US FISTS members during the Sprint. Thanks John and hope you can join us again.

Kudos also go out to Bob, WB5IUU for operating VP2V\WB5IUU from Smugglers Cove, Tortola BVI during the sprint!

Certificates of appreciation are on their way to you both!

I need to remind everyone to double check your entry forms and make sure you are entering the correct information. We had to make two corrections to the Spring Sprint that changed the top three in the QRP category. Luckily the changes were for the good. 73, Dan, N8IE FISTS #4985 Sprint Manager

QRO Category

Call	Name	FISTS#	State	Score
N4BP	Bob	7871	FL	37296
WB2MIC	Jozef	12313	VT	25389
N9FC	John	8069	IN	22919
N4BCB	Bruce	10048	AL	20313
W4YE	Buddy	3929	VA	19462
K4IA	Buck	6702	VA	19244
*W8EQA/7	Dan	2419	UT	18036
WB0B	Larry	2916	IA	17990
K9JWI	Clyde	3051	IN	17061
NA9U	John	11821	IN	13981
N5DRB	Dennis	11297	AR	12771
K4CZ	Barry	11374	NC	11904
W7JI	Louis	11079	KS	11625
W9LHG	John	9565	WI	11455
N5AQ	William	9516	OK	11084
W4KPG	Eric	10774	FL	8520
W2FAM	Phil	1988	NY	8370
KK0I	Jack	12743	WI	7950
K9NSS	Gary	2534	IL	7938
N5DY	Jack	11105	OK	7695
W7DPW	David	10410	WA	7650
K4BAI	John	2158	GA	7410
W4IHI	Gary	13344	FL	7250
W7GVE	Ed	12077	AZ	7194
W0UY	Tom	8263	KA	6890
K5YQF	Cecil	8077	TX	6264
N3RSD	Frank	2411	DE	6141
K8VFR	Rosemarie	5602	MI	5850
K8FN	Bob	2455	OH	5808

Call	Name	FISTS#	State	Score
NR4AW	Jesse	12171	NC	5640
K4ORD	Riley	4272	VA	5060
NE7D	Rocky	11018	OR	4180
K4UK	Stan	2934	VA	3906
KA8HFN	Larry	11631	OH	3780
KO4OL	Glenn	6583	KY	3759
W0JFR	John	11827	CO	3520
K8JFT	Ron	10990	CT	3520
K4CA	Dave	6219	AL	3420
AA5CH	Brad	8133	AR	3400
WD5U	Walt	12937	TX	2470
KA8MPT	John	9552	OH	2318
KE9GM	Gregory	6920	IN	2272
K9XL	Ray	8469	IL	2240
KS0M	Dick	3067	MO	2170
VE2CBW	Claude	12834	QC	2121
KY8W	William	11987	MI	2040
AE0G	Larry	12874	NE	2000
VA3RKM	Robert	11797	ON	1800
WB2FXK	Jack	918	NY	1725
WA8BIJ	Vince	905	MI	1575
W5DLP	David	10208	TX	1500
WL7WH	Bob	3420	AK	1470
KD2MX	Paul	12042	NJ	1430
AE8M	John	7580	OH	1425
WA2EYA	John	7039	NY	1400
KD5JOM	Robert	7459	MS	1400
W1TPB	Ted	12192	MA	1300
W2VHV	John	4076	MO	1140
N1LU	Don	11561	NH	1045
KX8B	Chuck	2987	OH	880
K7LU	Scott	12811	UT	840
W9TFC	John	5254	WI	780
W5QLF	Joe	10553	TX	600
AB1BW	George	10794	CT	585
AA3II	Jerry	9746	PA	550
W6YR	Joseph	12487	CA	360
W5VDM	William	12127	TX	320
VK4TJ	John	9080	VK	315
KG4WNA	John	9738	KY	270
KJ4TQ	Charles	13091	FL	245
NG6X	David	719	CA	150
VP2V/WB5IUU	Bob	12463	VP2V	144
AD6WL	Jim	9259	CA	120
KD5RSS	Fred	9905	OK	80

Call	Name	FISTS#	State	Score
NC6Q	Bob	12429	CA	60

Club Caeagory

Call	Club	FISTS#	ST	Score
W8EOC	Medina 2 Meter Group	10250	OH	44160
WB0RMK	S.M.A.R.T.S.	10550	MN	8555
N2MO	Ocean Monmouth ARC	11400	NJ	6116
W5KL	QCWA CH 202 Old Dominion	12350	VA	2380
W6MTC	Morse Telegraph Club	10350	CA	450

QRP Category

Call	Name	FISTS#	State	Score
KC2AFK	Dave	3922	NY	4074
K4YKI	Norm	2166	KY	2125
WA9LT	Walt	6950	IL	1950
ND5X	Roy	7270	TX	1425
W5ACM	Andy	10721	TX	840
K3WWP	John	2002	PA	350
AD5QB	Ken	11210	TX	80
AI4SH	Richard	10304	SC	5

Summer Sprint Soapbox

Jerry, AA3II, PA FISTS #9746 Worked late, missed a lot from the sound of it.

George, AB1BW, CT FISTS #10794 It was a great contest despite having to shut down several times for thunderstorms. I found that daytime contests are more to my liking because my ears had a hard time copying once it ran past my bedtime!! HI HI.

Richard, AI4SH, SC FISTS #10304 AT LEAST I "GOT MY FEET WET." IS THERE A LOWEST SCORE PRIZE? :-)

John, K3WWP, PA FISTS #2002 I only had very limited time to enter the sprint, but I did want to make an appearance to show my appreciation to FISTS for moving the sprint time to avoid conflict with the IARU contest. All organizations should be respectful of other organizations' events if the other organization 'was there first'. It was nice to work fellow NAQCC members in the sprint.

I love the way our two clubs can work together so well to promote CW. I invite all FISTS to enter our NAQCC monthly sprints also. They are designed for QRP, but all are welcome to enter and help out. Only those running QRP are eligible for our prizes and awards though. See <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/> for details.

Cecil, K5YQF, TX FISTS #8077 Enjoyed the Friday night Sprint. It made 40 meters more active from my location.

Paul, KD2MX, NJ FISTS #12042 Part time effort while preparing for weekend hiking expedition. I liked the evening schedule for a change. Even 15M was still open for a couple of QSOs.

Dick, KS0M, MO FISTS #3067 I did not expect to enter this sprint. But, my ailing wife had a good day and I was able to get in about one hour. Lost 10 minutes doing S&P as made only 4 contacts. Calling CQ pushed me up to the 31 contact total. Several FISTS need to learn how to zero beat a signal. Sorry for the keying defect. My 27 year old KC Keyer has a problem sending the "dit". Had 16 first time calls, 6 FISTS numbers lower than mine. Most numbers were 10K plus.

Bob, N4BP, FL FISTS #7871 FT-1000MP, A4S @ 65ft, 40/80M Trap Dipole @ 62ft

John, NA9U, IN FISTS @11821 Many new numbers this sprint!!

Roy, ND5X, TX FISTS #7270 Great fun but I won't use an HW8 w/o filters during Summer Sprint again.

Robert, VA3RKM, ONT FISTS #11797 K2, 12w, verticals. Good fun, as usual. Thanks for the Q's.

John, VK4TJ, QLD FISTS #9080 I usually don't bother with North American FISTS events, as it's pretty hard to get the attention of left-coast USA stations when they have their beams pointed east. I didn't even know the event was on until I happened to tune through the swarm halfway through. At least now the ones I was able to break through on know that there is intelligent life to the west and south of LA!

Phil, W2FAM, NY FISTS #12650 We (N2UC & K2NPN) enjoyed working the contest. We had log software problems and had to quickly switch to a paper log to remain in the contest. It seemed good to hear our FISTS members on-the-air again!

Eric, W4KPG, FL FISTS #10774 I like the change to Friday nights. Fun sprint, 73 Eric w4kpg

David, W7DPW, WA FISTS #10410 Lots of FB operators. QRN and QSB here.

Kieth, WB0RMK, MN FISTS #10550 (S.M.A.R.T.S.) It's a tough task to fill the shoes of someone else, but KC0ORL and I did our best. We should have qsy'd to 40 meters sooner and may have done a little better, but we had fun. Looking forward to the Fall Sprint already.

Larry, WB0B, IA FISTS #2916 After shoulder surgery in April and a weak showing in the Spring Sprint, it was nice to get limbered up again for the summer Sprint. Liked the change of time. One a year would be fine for an evening operating event. Many new calls and number.

Dan, W8EQA/7, UT FISTS #2469 Many thx to all the good, patient ops. Good condx, lots of new FISTS!

Riley, K4ORD, VA FISTS #4272 Enjoyed the Sprint, was nice to have 15M open. Rig K2 @12W. Ant's 160M & 40M dipoles & 610' long wire.

Leland, W4YE, VA FISTS #3929 Good turn out. Good to work a number of new FISTS members.

Leland, W5KL, VA QCWA Chpt. 202 Old Dominion FISTS #12350 Operated W5KL last hour. Glad to work all FISTS including VK4TJ and KL7SB 73 Buddy

Bill, KY8W, MI FISTS #11987 It was enjoyable to hear so many oprs. on CW. I like the idea of the short 4 hour Sprint, age 69 here so by the time I log the contact and find another station it keeps me occupied. The four hours is about my good limit. HI I was able to work VP2V at Smugglers Cove Tortola BVI. Garry, K9NSS, IL FISTS #2534 Conditions were good. Hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did.

Sparks, KD5JOM, MS FISTS #7459 lots of fun!

Vince, WA8BIJ, MI FISTS #905 Couldn't work full time. But had a ball.

Stan, K4UK, VA FISTS #2934 Was able to operate for 3 hours until I got too sleepy. HI!
Very little activity here on the higher bands, but it good to not have to compete with the IARU World Championships. Look forward to the Fall Sprint. Will send special QSL all contacts since this is the 60th Anniversary week of my first QSO way back on July 11, 1947.

Ted, W1TPB, MA FISTS #12192 I enjoyed another FISTS Sprint. Fourty meters was very noisy dur to local storms but twenty was very good. My big error was spending way too much time trying to work VP2V. Looking forward to the next one.

Ed, W7GVE, AZ FISTS #12077 Was a great idea to move the time to Friday evening! Lots more activity! I picked up some new ones I hadn't heard B4! I would love to see all the Sprints moved to this new time!

Claude, VE2CBW, QC FISTS #12834 CW rocks!

John, K4BAI, GA FISTS #2158 Time was limited due to family commitments. A great idea to change this Sprint to Friday night. I entered the IARU HF test full time and have not prviously been able to devote ant time to the FISTS Summer Sprint when it directly conflicted with the IARU Championships.

Buck, K4IA, VA FISTS #6702 I like the Friday night format as I hate spending Saturday afternoon cooped up in front of the radio - especially when the weather is nice. 80 meters was too noisy this time of year but 20 stayed open late to make up for it.

Fred, KD5RSS, OK FISTS #9905 Thanks for the fun. Hope to improve QSO's next time. Vy 73 Butch

Charles, KJ4TQ, FL FISTS #13091 Had major rig troubles but had a good time in spite of it.

Bob, WL7WH, AK FISTS #3420 Lots of fun! Finally was held at good time for me and band. Hopefully more Sprints in same time frame!

Andy, W5ACM, TX FISTS #10721 Used a new Vibroplex KNOW CODE straight key, serial #018 for the Sprint!

Bob, K8FN, OH FISTS #2455 Nice to have only one contest on same freq. at a time!

William, W5VDM, TX FISTS #12127 Some stations would not give me a break and slow down to my speed.



Some of the hamfest tables

**FISTS Display
was a “hit” at
the JARC
HAMFEST 2007**

Hi Nancy:

Again, thanks for the hand out material. It was well received and although I could not sit there much of the time, when I was there, people stopped and did ask questions. The pens and the code disks went over very well. I was surprised at the number of people who would glance at the page, the Basic CW Operating Manual, and would immediately take a copy, fold it, and put it in their pocket or goody bag.

Friday afternoon, although we had not had any decent rains in over a month, it came pouring down. The outdoor cookout BBQ came off well though and it cleared to just a light sprinkle for the most part of that time. It rained, hard, Friday night and early Saturday morning but we were, for the most part, dry Saturday. No final figures are in but there were over 750 ticket sales, most of the 200 tables were reserved and the

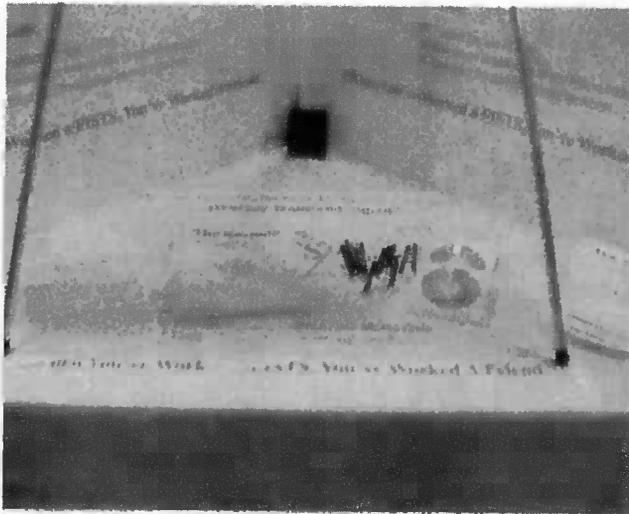
Commercial vendors all said that they did a good business.

Seminars, VE Testing and workshops were held and having the MO State ARRL Convention helped to make a full session. Has to be a plus for Amateur Radio and the proceeds will go to keeping our repeater up and running.

Thanks again and 73,
Mac W9NLA - Fists 3610



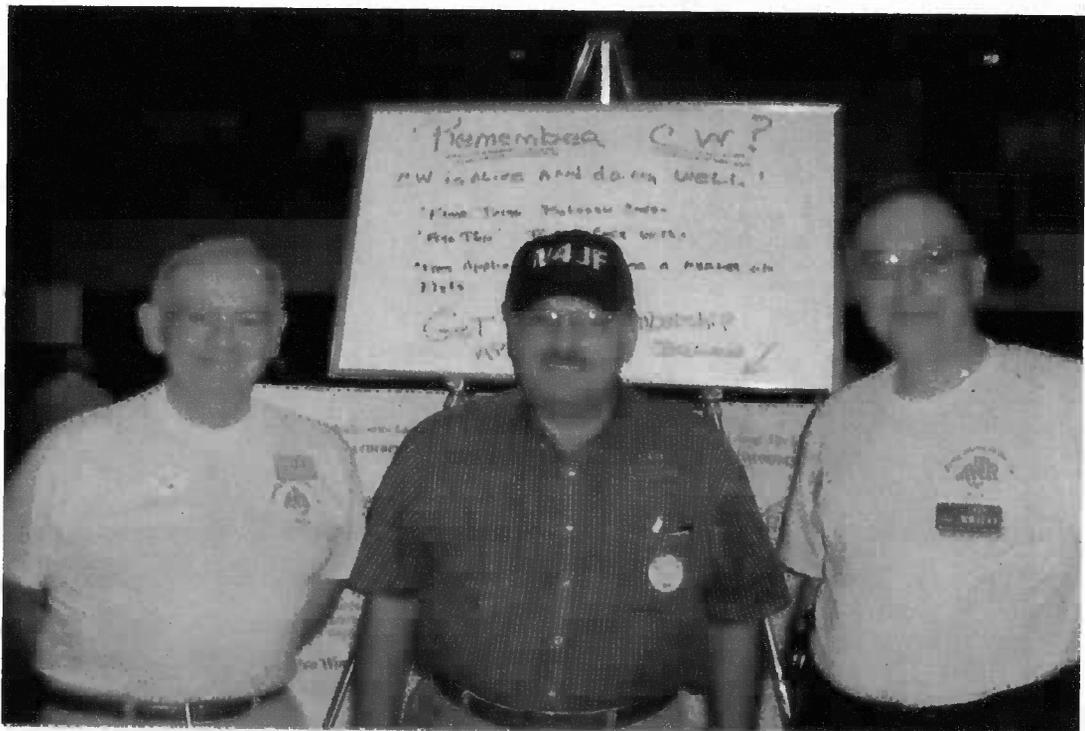
W9NLA with FISTS material. (nice FISTS Tshirt , Mac!)



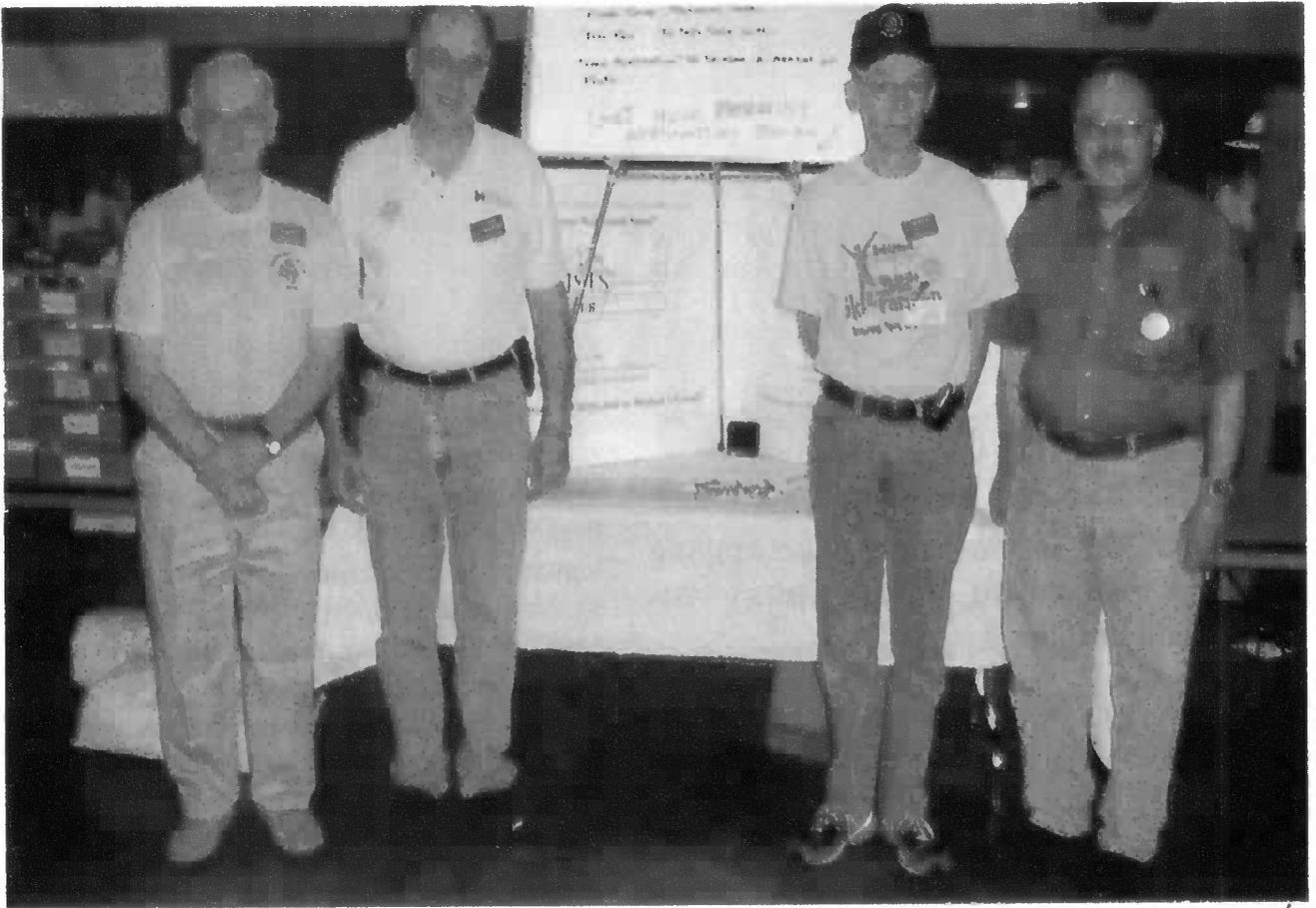
Paul's iPod was put to good use sending CW out to the crowd, attracting many visitors to the display.

CW is Alive and Well at the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club HamFest

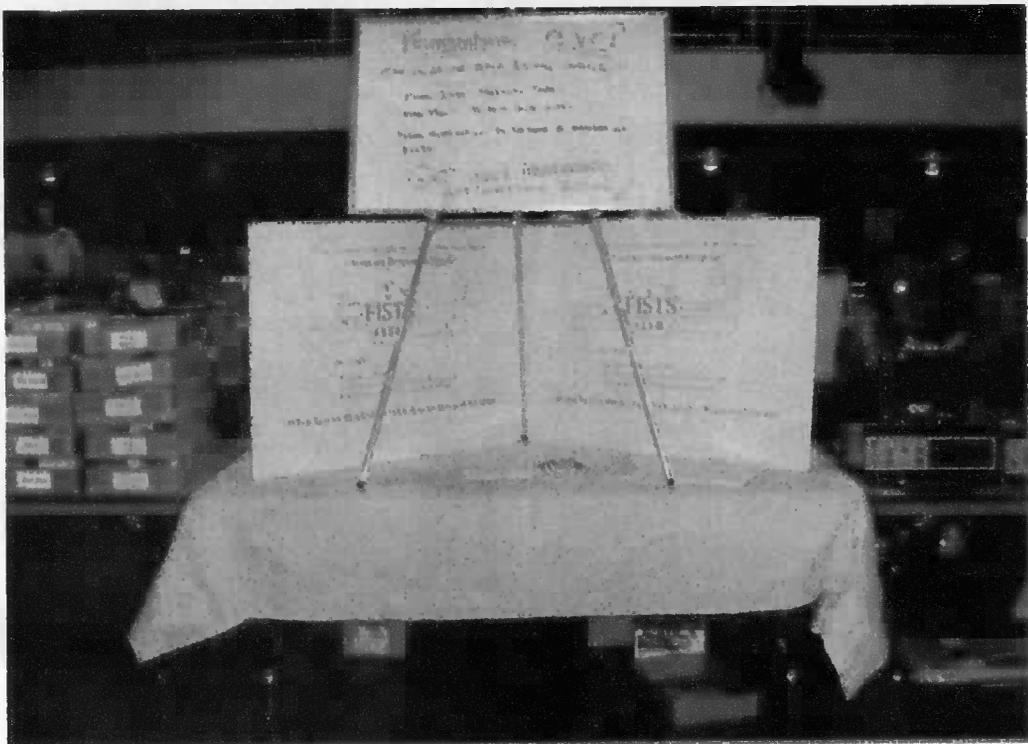
Paul Nash, W4JY, had been talking with Nancy at FISTS about doing something to get the word out about FISTS to the Hams attending the BARC HamFest. Nancy was able to send Paul pens, information flyers about FISTS history, code discs with all kinds of good CW learning material, copies of The Keynote and her blessings to have a good time. Well, as Paul tells it, the display attracted many folks who took advantage of the material on the display. Paul had an iPod in the display playing one of the CW learning discs all day both days of the HamFest. Paul is hopeful some of the applications that were given out will be completed and sent in for membership. It sure would be nice for the Birmingham area to have a local CW club to call their own.



Paul Nash, W4JY, Jerry Fiore, W4JF and Ken Adkisson, WB4FAY



Paul Nash, W4JY, Ken Adkisson, WB4FAY, Joe Ford, K4NVJ, Jerry Fiore, N4JF



QRP With K3WWP

by John Shannon K3WWP

As I said in Keynote 4/5's column, I am going to talk about calling CQ in contests this time around, along with some other details of QRP contesting. Let's get right to it, then if there's any space left, I have a couple of other things to add.

1. A contest CQ should be something simple like CQ QRP K3WWP. The CQ indicates you are listening for any station to call. The QRP (or TEST, SS, etc.) indicates you are in the contest. Then of course your call, and that's it. If no one answers after about 3 or 4 seconds, do it again, and keep repeating this sequence until someone answers or you finally give up and go S&P'ing. Nothing turns me off more than waiting through something like CQ QRP TEST CQ QRP TEST CQ QRP TEST DE K3WWP K3WWP K3WWP QRP TEST K. Even worse waiting and finding you already worked the guy. Isn't CQ QRP K3WWP much better? You don't need the repeats, the DE, or the K at the end.

2. To answer a contest CQ, simply send your call once, nothing more. Either the CQ'er will get it, and proceed, or he will get part of it and ask for a repeat, or not hear it at all. Sending something like K3WWP K3WWP DE K3xxx K3xxx K again wastes time and doesn't help matters any.

When you call, be sure you are exactly zero beat with the station you are calling. Some contesters, especially in the big contests, use very narrow filters, and may not

catch your call if you are off frequency. Having said that, I now add that if the station has a huge pileup, you may be better off calling slightly (but not too far) off frequency. It's something you have to learn from experience, but the best rule is to call exactly on frequency.

3. The CQ'ing station now simply sends the call of the station who answered him, followed by the exchange as in: K3xxx 599 PA 1880. You don't need to send TNX CALL UR RST 599 599 IN PA PA MY NR IS 1880 1880 HW? K. I do believe you should say thanks (TU) in contests, but don't draw it out, just the required info, period. If the other station gets it, fine. If not, it is then up to him to ask for a repeat. I kept track once in a QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party. I sent my info this way, and about 75% of the people I worked got my info the first time. Of the other 25%, most of them got it with one repeat.

4. When asking for something you missed, keep it simple. If you missed his section, send SEC?, nothing more. If you are asked for your section, send just that, nothing else. Just send PA. Don't send MY SEC IS PA PA HW? K. Again that just wastes time.

5. Summing up, here is what a good exchange should be like:

1)-indicates stuff sent by K3WWP

2)-stuff sent by K3xxx

1) CQ QRP K3WWP

(no answer after 4 seconds)

1) CQ QRP K3WWP

2) K3xxx

1) K3xxx 599 PA 1880

2) TU 599 MD 9999

1) TU CQ QRP K3WWP
and so on.

Nice crisp quick QSO's which allow for much more time to make contacts.

Of course, band conditions will modify these procedures, but always keep it as brief as possible. For example, if you sense someone is not copying you well, then send your info twice like TU 599 599 PA PA 1880 1880. A good clue to how well he is copying you is how easily he gets your call. If he has a hard time copying your call, the odds are good he will have a hard time copying your exchange, etc. Play it by ear.

Get to know the good/great contesters, and realize that they will copy your info, no matter what. For example, I know many contesters from working them so many times. Even if their signals are weak, and mine will be weaker, I know they will copy my info right away, and I send it as fast as possible so we both can move on and get more QSO's.

Contesting is an art, and the more contests you enter, the better you will become. Like anything, practice makes perfect. So enter as many contests as possible, even the big ones like the SS and DX contests.

Although there is no chance whatsoever in a major contest that you will win the big prize overall with your QRP signal, you can still have fun by learning something from each contest. Also set a goal before each contest, and then do your best to make that goal.

Also remember that by entering each contest, you will become better known among the contestants. When they get to know your call it will be easier to pick you out of a pileup or copy your signal when it is very weak.

Do your best to get yourself recognized as a QRP contestant. When reporting your score, ask that your call be listed with a /QRP at the end so others will know you did it with QRP. But never send /QRP in a contest, that wastes time. If you send comments along with your scores, gear those comments towards your QRP operation. Be sure to thank the contest organizers if they do something for the QRPer like having a separate QRP entry class or an extra multiplier for the QRPer. In short, don't keep it a secret that you operated QRP in a contest.

My web site at <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/> has more info on QRP contesting and QRP/CW operating in general. Since you're reading this, you probably are interested in QRP operating, and being a FISTS, I know you're interested in CW. So an ideal adjunct to your FISTS membership is a membership in the North American QRP CW Club. Membership is free and we have a variety of activities, at least one of which should appeal to everyone. Sign up and join our 2,000+ current members at <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/>. That's a tilde in front of yoel. Till next column, 73. John K3WWP

I moved to Delaware in December 2005 to a second floor condo with a small attic space. I had attic dipoles for 10, 15 and 20 meters at my previous QTH in New Jersey, but the attic at my new QTH was too small to accommodate the dipoles, so I needed something smaller that would work the WARC bands as well as 10, 15 and 20 meters.

The August 1994 issue of QST magazine had a product review of the MFJ-1786 Super Hi-Q Loop. The QST article convinced me that it would be worthwhile giving the loop a try.

The aluminum loop is three feet in diameter and can be mounted indoors or outdoors on a mast. In my case the loop sits on the floor of the attic standing up so that it has vertical polarization.

It can also be laid flat for horizontal polarization. Sitting on the attic floor it is about 20 feet above ground.

The loop comes with a control box which is used to remotely tune the loop to the desired band, i.e., 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, or 10 meters.

The unit has a cross needle SWR-Wattmeter with High (300 Watts forward-60 Watts reflected) power and Low (30 Watts forward-6 Watts reflected) power scales.

There are push buttons on the box to tune up or down. Using the

buttons sends DC voltage through the coaxial transmission line to operate a small motor in the antenna which turns a capacitor and tunes the antenna to the band of choice. The coaxial cable is 75 feet of RG-58.

Does the loop work ? From January 2006 to January 2007 it worked 86 entities on CW (6 continents) and 49 entities on PSK31 (6 continents), a total of 319 QSOs and 101 different entities. CW contacts were made on 30, 20, 17 and 15 meters. All PSK31 contacts were on 20 meters.

The rig is a Ten-Tec OMNI VI Plus and power output was 75 Watts on CW and 25 Watts on PSK31. I also chase U.S. counties on CW and the loop works well out to the western states. The loop is costly but if you need something small it does the job.

73, Russ, WA2VQV

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

Awards Manager

AWARDS ISSUED – June 20,
2007 TO October 10, 2007

It is amazing that so many awards were issued over the summer, what with the terrible band conditions we've been having. My personal Congratulations to all who braved the poor band conditions in order to complete your award logs.

Several club members have asked the same questions about the 20-20 awards for this year. Those questions being;

Q. Are the plaques going to be numbered?

A. No, the award plaques will NOT be numbered.

Q. Will there be any special endorsement or sticker for working all 12 months and not using any of the "Bonus" stickers to complete the requirements for the plaque?

A. No special award or stickers will be issued for working all 12 months.

A secondary note to the last answer : The reason the award rules

were modified and Bonus stickers were made available, was to allow all Club members that did not get the 20-20 Award information early in the year, to have an equal chance at getting a plaque.

Remember, even though you may not be able to get a plaque, you can still get the 20-20 Award

Certificate for working at least 20 - 20 minute QSO's in one month before the end of this year. It is a nice looking full color certificate.

You may use the following e-mail address, (Fistsawards@comcast.net) for sending in your award logs. Excel, Word, and Text files are the only file types accepted. Please read the e-mail log rules on the FISTS web site for details.

Send in complete logs for awards. That means all of the following information; Call, Date of QSO, Band, FISTS Nr., Point/s claimed for each QSO. Incomplete logs, delay receiving your award certificate.

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 your questions to... fistsawards@comcast.net

Keep banging the brass . . . C U on the bands.

73, Dennis K6DF

Basic Century (CC)

K2FW
K6BBQ
K6QGM
KB5JO
KB9AU
KE5MUP
KE7S
KG5I
KG6HAF
KI4EZC
N2FQ
N4LD
N5XGG
N6NAX
NS8V
W1TPB
W4CEB
W4IHI
W5IA
W7DAX
W7GAM
WA0WNV
WA2BCZ
WA4YVI
WB2KKI
WU8V

Silver Century

AC2C
AD7JY
K5ENA
KI4EZC
KK0I

Gold Century

NN9K

RCC Award

K5ICW
KK0I
VE3HUR

Platinum Award

AD7JY
 AE0G
 K5ENA
 KI4CBN
 VE3HUR
 WA8BIJ

Platinum 250 Award

W9LHG

Platinum 500 Award

K0TC
 KC0JKD
 20-20 Jun
 AD5WI
 AD7JY
 K0TC
 K6DF
 KA8HFN
 KC0JKD
 KD0V
 KK0I
 KS3S
 N4RAY
 VE3HUR
 W3MWR
 W7GVE
 WB2MIC
 WB4MED
 20-20 Jul
 AB8EL
 AD7JY
 K0TC
 K6DF
 KA8HFN
 KC0JKD
 KD0V
 KK0I
 KS3S
 N4RAY
 VE1VEI
 VE3HUR
 W3MWR
 W7GVE
 W9SJW

WB2MIC
 WB4MED
 WI0S

20-20 Aug

AB1BW
 AD5WI
 AD7JY
 K0TC
 K6DF
 KA8HFN
 KC0JKD
 KD0V
 KK0I
 KS3S
 N4RAY
 VE1VEI
 VE3HUR
 W3MWR
 W5GXV
 W7GVE
 WB0PYF
 WB2MIC
 WB4MED
 WI0S

20-20 Sep

AD7JY
 K0TC
 KC0JKD
 KD0V
 KK0I
 KS3S
 N4RAY
 VE3HUR
 W3MWR
 W7GVE
 W9SJW
 WB0PYF
 WB2MIC
 WB4MED
 WI0S

Worked All States (FISTS)

AD7JY
 K0LUW

Millionaire

KE5MUP
 NR4AW
 W7DAX

2 Million

AD7JY
 N2UC

3 Million

KK0I
 VE3HUR

4 Million

KD0V
 N3RSD
 W7JI
 WB2MIC

5 Million

KD0V
 N3RSD
 W7JI
 WB2MIC

6 Million

K0TC
 W7JI
 WB2MIC
 WB8MON

7 Million

AD5WI
 K4UK
 KA8HFN

8 Million

K4IA
 W5GXV

13, 14, 15 Million

KC0JKD
 W7GVE

16 Million

KC0JKD



FISTS DOWN UNDER

Newsletter – November 2007

Editor & QSL Manager for ZL: **Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX, P.O. Box 15078, Otaki Railway, Otaki 5543, New Zealand.** Tel: 06-364-6339

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Membership/Awards Liaison: **Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH, 12c Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6011, New Zealand.** Tel: 0-4-473-0847. Fax: 0-4-473-0848

QSL Manager for ZL6FF: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX at address above.
QSL Manager for VK2FDU: Chris Thompson VK2CTN at address above

Address e-mails for all the above persons to: <fists-down-under@ihug.co.nz>
Web site –: <<http://www.fistsdownunder.org>>



SUGGESTED FISTS CLUB H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

1.808 MHz (160m) – 3.528 MHz (80m) – 7.028 MHz (40m) – 10.118 MHz (30m) -
14.058 MHz (20m) - 18.085 MHz (17m) – 21.058 MHz (15m) – 24.918 MHz (12m) – 28.058 MHz (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.

DOWN UNDER MEMBERS' NEWS

VK2DBD/G3SCD-David #3756 is back in Yakandandah by now after his stay in England. He reported having difficulty in getting a flight back again! (No doubt a lot of Australian and New Zealand travellers from France would have put forward their departure, so that may have helped David. VK & ZL readers will understand the significance of this!)

He said "I keep firing up the HF at various times when opportunity occurs and have logged getting on for 200 QSOs - regret not too many FISTS among them. – He said that the early start necessary for Oceania makes it difficult to pursue the DX - when operating from other folks' QTHs, but did QSO Dave VK3FGE (Fists) and a VK7 and a VK2 one day. – He had a couple of low dipoles up for 40m and 30m and these, fed with one coax seem to work quite well on all 80-10m bands. There is no shortage of EU stns on 40 and 80m. "

ZL1MAT-Mathew #9667, our youngest member has been making a name for himself. This is what appeared in the September/October 2007 edition of Break In, the official journal of the NZART - Congratulations Mathew.

MID – NORTH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FAIR 2007 Judges – Allan Walker, ZL1AW and Charlie Moates, ZL1DAC

Certificate of Merit : This year there was an entry worthy of a prize that was awarded to Matthew Pearce ZL1MAT, a Year



Matthew with his prize-winning exhibit "Wave Mail"

10 student at Whangarei Boys' High School, for his exhibit "Wave Mail". Matthew assembled a software-defined radio kitset (the Sofrock®) with some help from his father. The radio was attached to a laptop computer via a soundcard. The radio is very flexible and can be used for many different purposes; in this case to allow communication over long distances between OLPCs. The OLPC is a US\$100 laptop for use by children in developing countries and they communicate with each other via a mesh network which only works over a maximum distance of 2 km. Matthew wanted to create a system to allow basic text communication over 500 km. In this project he demonstrated the reception of BPSK31 signals sent from his home. Next year he plans to have a complete system showing both transmission and reception of BPSK31. Matthew was also awarded other technology and electrical prizes.

VK2CTN-Chris #9057 our man in Australia left on 22 October for a long visit to Britain. He returns in mid-December. We wish him well. He goes clutching a list of UK FISTS members and it is hoped he will manage a few eyeball QSOs there. We are promised a report on his return. **VK4TJ-John #9080** has undertaken the postal distribution of newsletters to Australian members while Chris is on holiday. – Thanks John. At the time of writing there are not many QSL cards on hand for VK Members so I (Nigel, ZL2TX) will hold them until Chris returns.

HOUSEKEEPING

As usual we have some outdated e-mail addresses on file. This month's "disappeared" are (still) – VK7LDH-Don Hodgkinson #9672, and ZL2IH-Ian Hayton #9027.

Renewal notices are sent out each month until the member renews. Apart from time and materials it also frequently involves postage. Please renew as soon as possible after you receive your first notice. If you have received a renewal notice in error, or if you have any problems regarding your membership, please don't hesitate to contact one of us listed at the masthead.

FREE FILTER DESIGN SOFTWARE

Neil's filter design program, well worth the 50 bucks or so he used to charge for it, is now free, downloadable from his web site. Unsurpassed for designing crystal ladder filters, it also does low pass filters, audio filters, and just about anything else you might think of.

<http://www.aade.com/filter.htm>

BEACONMAP

Graham, VK4SG, mentioned some free software at our September meeting for monitoring the NCDXF worldwide CW beacon network – even if you don't know Morse code! The software provides a world map with highlights on the areas beacons are actually heard from, as well as a visual GREYLINE path indicator.

<http://www.gsl.net/pa1are/software.html/>

HAM INFOBAR

As reported on the WIA News, a toolbar just for the ham radio community. Links to real-time DX spots, WWV numbers, QSL managers and a myriad of other radio-related "helps":

<http://www.haminfo.co.uk/>

The above three articles are courtesy of DDRC Ink – Journal of the Darling Downs Radio Club Inc (John Kirk, VK4TJ) - Ed

I was talking (emailing) with Paul in the UK, and they have a new vanity call ending in SCW - Slow CW - (I don't remember the prefix off my head, I think it's M0SCW but I'm not sure) – and that is going to be a club call dedicated to slow operating. People hearing that call on the air will know that it is an especially "friendly" slow operator and Paul is hoping that will encourage newbies to code to answer its CQ. He went to a Rally, and insecurity about their operating skill was the major stumbling block for people to get on the air, hence his SCW callsign idea.

Hopefully anyone hearing a national club station would have a QSO with an op who would slow down, but I can see where having a dedicated club call for slow speeds would be helpful. I am going to get a XXSCW call for the US contingent and was wondering if you'd want to join in and get one for the Down Unders, too. I don't know the club call situation in JA, if they have the ability to do that – or even if you can get vanity callsigns or have a SCW call available, so I'm just throwing it out there to see what you think about it.

I talked to Dennis, K6DF, about how this would affect the award points, and he suggested these SCW calls be worth 4 points - to make them special and separate from the actual national club calls. That would give us a full compliment of numbers - regular contacts = 1; DX contacts = 2; club number contact = 3; slow national call = 4 and national club calls = 5.

It will be a while before I get the callsign, I have to apply for a regular club callsign, then apply for a vanity after I get the regular club callsign.

Sounds like a good idea Nancy. What do our Down Under Members think? Correspondence to Ralph, ZL2AOH please! Ed.

STATIC WINDOW CLINGS!!

Hot off the presses!!

NEW FISTS STUFF!!

I 
CW
FISTS CW Club

**TWO STYLES:
I "heart" CW
and
FISTS Key Logo**



ONLY 50 cents each if ordered with something else.....

OR

50 cents each PLUS 50 cents for postage/envelope if ordering just the static window clings.

(One postage charge per cling order)

Made to go INSIDE a window, graphic will show correctly when viewed from the outside of the window.

FISTS CW Club Membership Application

If this is a renewal or if you have had a FISTS number before, please check here.....

Call sign: _____ Name on the air: _____

Full name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

(Please print clearly. We do not give out or sell your email address to anyone)

Birthday: _____ Phone: _____

The newsletter is offered on audio cassette to blind members at no charge. If you require this service please check here:

Favorite bands: _____

Other club affiliations (ARRL, QCWA, etc) _____

Other interests: _____

Date: _____ How did you hear about FISTS? _____

Signature: _____

Please make checks (\$15 per year, includes newsletter) payable to FISTS CW Club and mail to:

Nancy Kott WZ8C

PO Box 47

Hadley MI 48440

Also payable via paypal.com to FISTS@TIR.COM

HOW DO I...? Join or Renew

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 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 (\$15) to Nancy WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440 (checks payable to FISTS).

To join using Paypal (www.paypal.com), send the funds to fists@tir.com. In the comments box, type NEW MEMBERSHIP, your callsign, name and mailing address and preferred email address. If you join via Paypal, you don't need to send in a paper application.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Subscriptions are **\$15.00/year**; Under 18= **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, callsign, and mailing address. You don't have to send in a paper application if you join using Paypal.

CAN I USE MY CREDIT CARD?

You can use a credit card through Paypal (<http://www.paypal.com>) but we are not set up to take credit cards over the phone or directly.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO RENEW?

We send 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 (or \$10 if a student) to Nancy WZ8C (checks payable to FISTS) at FISTS, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440. If you are under 18 or 80+ years old, there is no renewal fee, but let us know you're still interested so we can renew your subscription.

WHAT IF I AM A MEMBER UNDER 18 or 80+?

Renewals are free for a teen (17-) or old-timer membership (80+), but you must notify WZ8C of your continued interest in FISTS, renewals are not automatic.

IS THERE A FISTS EMAIL REFLECTOR?

Yes! It is for exchanging ideas, setting up skeds, code talk, etc. Absolutely no flames or bad behavior tolerated. To join, go to <http://mailman.qth.net>.

Please note that
YOUR RENEWAL DATE is
SOMEWHERE on your mailing label,
either in FISTS# year/month/day format or
day/month/year format, depending on how the printer
sets it up

*Save volunteer wear and tear - renew now, don't wait
for a renewal postcard.*

*If your renewal date is incorrect, let WZ8C Nancy
know so she can fix it.*

FISTS CW CLUB
PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

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