

The KeyNote



Newsletter of the Americas Chapter, FISTS CW Club—The International Morse Preservation Society
Issue 2, 2020

From the Editor: Starting Over

Bryan Bergeron, NU1N

It's not often in life that one is given the chance to start over—but that's exactly what it feels like to introduce a young person to ham radio. Consider that my nephew, a junior in high school, recently expressed interest in learning CW and acquiring at least a Technician Class license before end of summer. Because we live on opposite coasts, hand holding and teaching have to occur at a distance.

To start, I sent my nephew a WWII era straight key with oscillator and links to my favorite code practice iPad apps. I followed up with a copy of the ARRL's guide to the Technician's license, a QRP 40m transceiver kit from the ARRL, a prefab dipole and 50 feet of coax. I also ordered a copy of the transceiver kit so that I can walk my nephew through any build problems.

In putting together a "starter package" for my nephew, I considered everything from a box of tubes and high voltage components to an off-the-shelf Japanese transceiver. Although I longed for one of those shiny transceivers as a Novice, I recognized that bypassing years of building transmitters from scratch and refurbishing old receivers would have severely restricted the scope of my learning. Conversely, sending my inexperienced nephew a box of tubes, components and a schematic wasn't realistic. Technical issues aside, my Nephew, like everyone else in his generation, has a limited attention span measured in minutes and hours instead of weeks and months.

At every step of the way, I've had flashbacks. Learning CW with a vinyl LP record from Radio Shack. Building my first HeathKit—a DX-60B transmitter. Refurbishing my first receiver, a Drake DX-60B. And an endless series of antennas, from simple dipoles to full-sized beams. Turns out that, despite the chance to create an experience for my nephew that bypassed years of yearning for better gear, I opted to provide him with an essentially parallel experience. That's right. Given the chance to start over, I opted to essentially repeat history. The best decision? Only time will tell. For now, he's enjoying the process, speed bumps and all.

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"When you've worked a FISTS, you've worked a friend."

INFORMATION PAGE

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 yield the answer, but your best bet is to ask a FISTS volunteer or look in the reference issue. Several volunteer contacts and/or email addresses have changed from the last reference issue of *The Key-Note*. Please make note of the following listings.

When emailing a volunteer please put the word FISTS in the title of your email. This will help the volunteer recognize that your email is important and not spam.

Awards and Certificates

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, awards@fistsna.org
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

Club Call, KNØWCW

Cody Codianni, KC2LSD, kc2lsd@fistsna.org
413 Martin Court, Leonardo, NJ 07737-1317

Membership Questions; Renewals; Call Changes; Name, Mailing, and Email Address Changes

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, membership@fistsna.org
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

FISTS Store Manager

Joe Falcone, N8TI, fistsstore@fistsna.org
9880 Musch Road, Brighton, MI 48116

Activities Manager

"Vacant"

If interested email to:

Joe Falcone N8TI fistsstore@fistsna.org

Website Changes (including getting your personal or club web page linked)

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, webmasater@fistsna.org
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

Club Presentation Packets

Joe Spencer, KK5NA, kk5na@kk5na.com
3618 Montridge Ct., Arlington, TX 76016-4821

Code Buddy Volunteers and Buddies

<http://www.fistsna.org/codebuddy.html>

FISTS Sprints

E-logs to sprintlogs@fistsna.org
Mail Logs to: FISTS Sprint Logs
4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA 94536

Get Your Feet Wet Activity Day/G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest

Karl Zuk, N2KZ, feetwetlogs@fistsna.org,
g3zqslogs@fistsna.org
15 Flintlock Ridge Rd., Katonah, NY 10536-2510

The KeyNote Newsletter

Bryan Bergeron, NU1N, keynote@fistsna.org

**We need articles and reviews for
*The KeyNote!***

**NOTE: Image files need to be high resolution
JPGs or 300 dpi TIF files at least 5" wide.**

**Send your Word or text files to
keynote@fistsna.org**

The KeyNote

The Newsletter of the Americas Chapter of FISTS

Issue 2, 2020

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Send articles to:

keynote@fistsna.org

Design: Mary Cronin

Americas Chapter, President's Message

By Joe Falcone, N8TI

What does it mean to be a CW Operator?

The other day, someone wrote to me and said that he wanted to join FISTS, but did not know if he qualified because he was going to use an electronic keyer. He thought that in order to be a FISTS member, one should use some sort of manual keying instrument, such as a straight key or a bug.

I told him, of course, that the only qualification needed to be a FISTS member was an interest in Morse Code. Regardless of whatever method you use to transmit Morse Code, be it a straight key, electronic keyer or a keyboard, it is fine with us. That goes for receiving Morse Code, too. If you want to use just your ears or if you need or want to use some form of decoder, that is fine too.

I believe that one of the advantages to using Morse Code nowadays is that it gives you an opportunity to concentrate on doing something with your mind and your hands so you don't have to be distracted by a lot of the unpleasant things that are going on in the world today. That is a bonus on top of the standard reasons for using Morse Code, such as lower bandwidth, lower power requirements and more dependable communications.

Using Morse Code simply takes you away from the very loud and persistent outside world. You can put on your earphones and without

bothering anyone in your household and contact and talk to someone hundreds or thousands of miles away. Your mind has to work translating the Code into your own spoken language and then your mind also has to imagine the person on the other end of the contact.

Who doesn't think of white sand and palm trees when you hear the call sign "ZF" from the Cayman Islands? Or, feel a little colder when you hear Iceland's "TF" call? My own call, N8TI, is a homage to Costa Rica, "TI," where I went on my one and only DXpedition 25 years ago. Palm trees, ocean waves, jungles and wonderful coffee all come to mind whenever I hear a "TI" call.

It does not matter how the Code is transmitted or received or whether you are running 1500 watts or only 2 or 3. The whole point is that Morse Code is Amateur Radio. It allows us to use our learned skill of understanding Morse Code as well as our imaginations regarding where our signals are being captured in order to have fun with our hobby. I also believe that Morse Code is useful as a mode of communication and every once in a while will serve to save someone when these disasters that happen more and more come around. That makes knowing Morse Code and preserving it more than just a hobby.

Therefore, your job as a FISTS member is to use the Morse Code as much as you can and promote it whenever possible, because people who do not take advantage of our favorite mode of communication are missing out on something great.

73, de Joe N8TI

WELCOME NEW FISTS AMERICAS CHAPTER MEMBERS

Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C	Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C
KD9BZK	19854	ED	IN	N9DGL	19894	BRUCE	IN
N0NEH	19855	BARRY	MO	KC3MHQ	19895	ADAM	PA
WB9ZIZ	19856	JOHN	IN	K7YEM	19896	STEVE	WA
KI6NOX	19857	RICHARD	CA	N4PGW	19897	BUCK	NC
KE4UUT	19858	MICHAEL	NC	W7OWF	19898	RICK	AZ
W5GDW	19859	GARY	NC	KD1H	19899	ROY	CT
KC5ZWM	19860	JAMES	OR	W7JMM	19900	JIM	OR
K4EEU	19861	GARY	SC	KC3HUC	19901	WALTER	DE
KC1FB	19862	JIM	CT	KC9FPC	19902	THOMAS	WI
N2JSA	19863	JOHN	NY	KB1HUP	19903	DAVID	CO
KC4IM	19864	BILL	VA	KG2NV	19904	DONALD	NJ
KK4JRW	19865	LES	NC	K7HYM	19905	RICHARD	CO
VA7MEB	19866	MICHAEL	BC	WB6WYF	19906	MICHAEL	CA
N2NTR	19867	IAN	PA	W9SAU	19907	DANIEL	IL
W1XAW	19868	EDWARD	ME	N0ZIB	19908	ADAM	MO
AC5A	19869	LONNIE	LA	KC9YJP	19909	ERIC	IL
W2AFE	19870	JAY	CA	AF5VK	19910	JOE	TX
KN4UDT	19871	BOB	FL	W6BFK	19911	DENNIS	FL
KC2KC	19872	KEVIN	NY	KW9X	19912	KRISTIN	WI
N4KHZ	19873	JOHN	NY	N6WRA	19913	DANIEL	ID
N3GTK	19874	ALLAN	PA	AE7VW	19914	MARK	WA
W0JCB	19875	JIM	MO	KD2JWH	19915	FRANK	NY
K1KTF	19876	STEVEN	CT	N7HQO	19916	LARRY	AZ
WB4EHG	19877	RICHARD	FL	N7DLI	19917	MICHAEL	ID
K8VA	19878	MIKE	MI	KB7EIU	19918	DAN	FL
KK4JOW	19879	DIANE	NC	K0WCM	19919	BILLY	MO
WB7TIM	19880	TIM	WA	K6ZMF	19920	JACK	CA
KX4WS	19881	MICHAEL	FL	NT9E	19921	DAVE	IL
K2DIW	19882	SETH	LA	WK4WC	19922	LANE	NC
WA2IUS	19883	STEVE	NJ	W5AAJ	19923	SCOTT	AR
N5RV	19884	JERRY	TX	N3VH	19924	JACOB	NJ
VY2SC	19885	ROB	PE	KD9NDR	19925	ROBIN	IL
N3AD	19886	ALAN	PA	W2ITT	19926	ROB	NY
WJ0YFL	19887	DAVID	MO	WD9JEN	19927	MARK	IL
KE0QKF	19888	MICHAEL	IA	W4REE	19928	RANDY	KY
KG9MG	19889	JAY	MN	N0KWA	19929	JAMES	LA
KG5SSB	19890	DANIEL	MS	KC1DPJ	19930	PAT	MA
K0RGI	19891	JIM	TN	N0XC	19931	STEVE	WI
WA3GGV	19892	FRANCIS	GA	KC1MMH	19932	PETER	MA
W0TS	19893	SAMUEL	SD				

(continued on page 5)

New Members (continued)

Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C	Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C
				N1CC	19971	MIKE	AZ
				WM5J	19972	HUGH	LA
KA2L	19933	BURT	NY	N4API	19973	BRIAN	GA
K7LNT	19934	MICHAEL	OR	KK7XC	19974	ERIC	WA
KC4GFW	19935	RICHARD	FL	K3REW	19975	RON	DE
KC3BTV	19936	JAMES	DE	K3YP	19976	RAY	OH
AB3GS	19937	HUEY	MD	VE1GS	19977	GEORGE	NS
KC5HAV	19938	JAMES	TX	KW4LQ	19978	DANNY	VA
KC5HAU	19939	CAMILLE	TX	VA1VO	19979	SHAWN	NS
K6ESS	19940	EDWARD	CA	W3PAR	19980	PARRIS	DE
KC5PCS	19941	BOLIVER	TX	KE7VE	19981	MARTIN	WY
KE0WNS	19942	MARK	CO	N4EWF	19982	EDGAR	AL
W6RKE	19943	GERALD	WA	KE8AQW	19983	MICHAEL	MI
K2EU	19944	DAVID	NY	K7TZH	19984	WAYNE	AZ
KG6T	19945	KEN	CA	KJ4RMJ	19985	PETER	FL
KF7KZG	19946	ROY	WA	KM4SBQ	19986	NICOLE	FL
VA3TBT	19947	KLASS	ON	KI5AL	19987	ALLEN	TX
K5PEB	19948	PAUL	NC	W3ERC	19988	ERIC	FL
NM5XD	19949	FRITZ	NM	KQ1X	19989	PETER	RI
KO4AXD	19950	BRIAN	VA	W3TBC	19990	MICHAEL	PA
KB3TXH	19951	JAMES	MD	W5FML	19991	FRANCES	TX
K4NNK	19952	GARY	GA	W8CP	19992	CARL	OH
AC9WR	19953	RANDY	IL	KG5TPT	19993	CHARLES	TX
W2SHT	19954	STEPHAN	NY	VA3DKL	19994	DAVE	ON
N4UJ	19955	GENE	GA	VA6ILS	19995	BRANDIN	BC
KB4YKQ	19956	JEFFREY	VA	KI6ISQ	19996	JIM	CA
K6TOR	19957	RICHARD	CA	AA6TQ	19997	GORDON	WA
K4UL	19958	BRIAN	VA	KP4P	19998	TELE	TX
N4ELC	19959	ERIC	GA	K1OKD	19999	JERRY	MA
WX9U	19960	PETE	AZ	K0BLU	20050	CHRIS	MN
KX4WY	19961	DARYL	NC	KB9BK	20051	KEVIN	WI
W8RD	19962	RAY	FL	WV0H	20052	MYRON	CO
N9WVM	19963	JOHN	IN	KF8LE	20053	VERN	OH
W5RES	19964	PAUL	NM	KD2QMP	20054	KEVIN	NY
W5OTR	19965	CHRIS	TX	WA2ZCM	20055	PAUL	NC
KB1NWA	19966	JAMES	CT	KD0EVP	20056	DARREN	KS
WB7VPC	19967	JOHN	UT	KI0DE	20057	MICHAEL	OH
KD8RV	19968	GREGORY	MI	N4LSJ	20058	THOMAS	OH
K7SM	19969	STEVE	AZ				
W0VK	19970	BRET	MO				

(continued on page 6)

New Members (continued)

Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C	Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C
N5KPD	20059	KRIS	TX	KW4G	20097	ROY	FL
KD2KUB	20060	ANDRIY	NY	N4PIR	20098	GARY	NC
VA6KL	20061	THOMAS	AB	WA4JM	20099	JOHN	FL
N4MDP	20062	MICHAEL	FL	N8RW	20100	RALPH	FL
KN4TWD	20063	JAYME	FL	N3EOE	20101	LEN	PA
AE3EE	20064	GEORGE	MD	KI7YNO	20102	ROBERT	AZ
KE8AHQ	20065	RON	MI	WC3T	20103	RICHARD	PA
AE4JB	20066	WILLIAM	FL	N1IDN	20104	MIKE	AZ
K4KLB	20067	JON	AL	KG7YU	20105	GORDON	WA
N0WGC	20068	BILL	MO	KD8TUI	20106	DANNY	OH
KX2CW	20069	JOAN	WA	KO4DFJ	20107	LAURA	GA
KA0ZBE	20070	MICHAEL	NE	KB1FLR	20108	RICHARD	FL
NW7N	20071	JASON	WY	N1GMM	20109	GUY	VA
WB7TTY	20072	RICHARD	FL	K5JSG	20110	JEREMY	NY
WS1K	20073	JJ	MA	N4WVW	20111	CRAIG	NC
W5TXP	20074	PETER	TX	WB0ISG	20112	DONALD	AR
W8RF	20075	MICHAEL	OH	NB7C	20113	CARL	ID
WN8MZZ	20076	CLUB	OH	NQ7X	20114	MIKE	AZ
VA3IPB	20077	DWAYNE	ON	KH2L	20115	ED	GU
KM1E	20078	JOE	UT	KF6HHH	20116	DANIEL	CA
N0CM	20079	RICK	KS	KD2QOJ	20117	WILLIAM	NY
VE6PG	20080	TIM	ON	K1JSM	20118	JOHN	RI
WI1G	20081	JOHN	MA	KE8BSL	20119	RICH	MI
K5UTM	20082	RANDY	AR	N0STN	20120	THOMAS	NE
WB2QJ	20083	MARK	TN	N1BIV	20121	BOB	PA
W4LTE	20084	SHAWN	FL	AA4GA	20122	LEE	GA
N8KFJ	20085	BRAD	KY	KJ7OBT	20123	ROBERT	MT
KE7ZJC	20086	KIM	UT	AC9HP	20124	WAYNE	IN
KI5GGF	20087	ANDREW	TX	N7EWS	20125	ED	AZ
K9DD	20088	JAMES	IL	W6BCE	20126	JOHN	CA
OA4DVG	20089	GUILLERMO					
W3PJ	20090	CHUCK	GA				
W9BRD	20091	DAVID	NJ				
W6UGA	20092	MATTHEW	CA				
WW9L	20093	JOHN	IL				
K6PDL	20094	GARY	CA				
K3JR	20095	JOHN	MD				
K7DDC	20096	DREW	WA				

February 16, 2020–May 31, 2020

FISTS Station in Guam

We now have our first FISTS member in Guam! Ed Poppe, KH2L #20115, just joined FISTS Americas Chapter in May! Here is a new FISTS country for everyone to look for on the bands.

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis, K6DF

Congratulations to all who earned operating awards from February 16, 2020 to May 31, 2020.

The bands have not been all that good during these past few months. Very deep QSB and poor propagation has not been helping our QRP members. Hopefully the sun will wake up a bit more during the summer months. We have a great number of new members listed elsewhere in this issue of *The Keynote*. Please listen for them on the bands and help them to earn their FISTS Key Patch!

New Members can earn a free FISTS Club Key Patch for making their first 10-minute CW QSO with any FISTS member on any band, so get on the air and make your first 10-minute QSO with a FISTS member to earn your free Key Patch!

New Member Patches Earned:

KA2IRQ Marlo—QSO with KG2NV
 N6MST Michael—QSO with KO4AXD
 W0OX Ray—QSO with AB5X
 KC5ZWM James—QSO with K6DF
 KK4JOW Diane—QSO with K2FW
 KG5SSB Daniel—QSO with K6DF
 N9DGL Bruce—QSO with K6DF
 W7OWF Rick—with WB6WYF
 KG2NV Don—with KA2IRQ
 WB6WYF Michael—with W7OWF
 W9SAU Daniel—with NB9U
 W6RKE Gerald—with N7RD
 KO4AXD Brian—with N6MST
 W5OTR Chris—with K6DF
 WM5J Hugh—with NN0D
 KI5AL Allen—with AC5RN

Award certificates are available free of charge to all club members, so dust off those keys and get on the air and start making contacts. Try using the free “Log Converter” program to track your

club awards, and it’s also a good general logging program as well. The author of Log Converter, Graham G3ZOD, is constantly providing updates and improvements to the program. This program was last updated on Jan 25, 2020 to version 4.0.0. This FREE software will track your FISTS awards automatically and allow you to send in your award logs to the FISTS Awards Manager at the click of a button! The best thing about it is...it’s FREE! Log Converter is available for download on the Americas Chapter web site. Look for the download link on the main web page just below the “Welcome New Members” list.

Check the Americas Chapter web pages for updated awards information and how to apply for them: www.fistsna.org/awards.html.

If you have any award questions or suggestions, send e-mail to me at: awards@fistsna.org.
 73, Dennis K6DF ..._. _____ (30)

FISTS AWARDS ISSUED: Feb 16, 2019–May 31, 2020

Century Award: VE9VIC, KE6K, PA3BFH, F6EJN, G7WHI, G4DNP, NESNI, G4TGJ, PG4I, SQ9S

Silver Award: VE9VIC, PA3BFH, SQ9S

Gold Award: MI0WWB

1 X QRP Award: G4DNP

Millionaire Award: VE9VIC, G0XAH, PA3BFH, PA0VLD, G7WHI, SQ9S

2 Million Award: VE9VIC, SQ9S

3 Million Award: LB6GG, SQ9S

4 Million Award: LB6GG

20 Million Award: OK1KW

RCC 80M Award: IU0HMB

Spectrum Award: ON7ZH, LB6GG, SQ9S

Perpetual Prefix Award: PA3BFH, SQ9S

Prefix 50 Sticker: PA3BFH, PA0VLD, SQ9S

Prefix 100 & 150 Sticker: PA3BFH, SQ9S

Young Pirates

By Dave Thompson, K5SS

“CQ, CQ, CQ, calling CQ and this time somebody other than Dave Thompson answer me.”

It was summertime of 1957 in the neighborhood of Avondale, a few miles east of downtown Birmingham, Alabama. Gathered around my Hallicrafters S-53A shortwave receiver were several of the neighborhood kids. I was trying to impress them with my radio communication skills.

With my J-38 straight key, I sent some more Morse Code to the caller, Dave Ingram, who was about a block and a half away.

Dave was running Army surplus “BC” equipment that he had tinkered with and made to work on 80 meters phone. He was running only a few watts AM to an end-fed, wire antenna strung from his bedroom window to a tree in his backyard. At my house, his signal was readable, but not especially strong. Good thing since neither Dave nor I had a license yet.

My rig was the S-53A receiver and a mechanical buzzer serving as my transmitter. Previously, Dave and I had discovered that the buzzer radiated a lot of RF across the HF spectrum. It was essentially a spark-gap transmitter.

The next step seemed obvious to us both. If I connected my shortwave receiving antenna to one of screws holding the metal components of the buzzer together, I could get out on—let’s just say—a lot of frequencies.

Back at Dave’s house he could tune around on his BC surplus receiver for a peak signal and copy me.

Dave got me interested in ham radio. His house on Fifth Avenue was across from Avondale Park (home of the 1953 Little League World Champions). We met because he was on my newspaper route.

In those days—with few exceptions—every house got the newspaper (The Birmingham News), thrown by youngsters riding bikes (I was 13 in 1957).

Dave was very proud of his BC Army surplus equipment and patiently explained it all to me. He truly loved the radio and electronics world, loved making things work, and his enthusiasm was contagious.

Dave also introduced me to Jake, W4QAP, the neighborhood Elmer. Jake lived on Third Avenue, about two and half blocks from Dave’s house. He operated only CW with his DX-35, a Hallicrafters SX-100 (nice!) and a folded dipole using 300 ohm TV twin lead wire. Add in his Vibroplex bug, and he was our ham radio hero.

In due time, Jake gave Dave and I our Nov-ice exams. I got KN4SSB and Dave got KN4TWJ (K4TWJ 2010 SK). These were both “first time through” calls. In those days, the FCC issued calls alphabetically sequentially, going through the W’s, then the K’s. When we got our “Generals” (license), we simply dropped the “N”.

My spark-gap days ended when the motel next door sent the Birmingham PD by my house to complain of TVI. In the 1950’s all TV was over-the-air and the motel had a tower-mounted antenna to feed the signal to all their rooms. That antenna was only about 20 feet behind my QTH.

I explained to the officer that I had fixed the problem and the interference wouldn’t happen again. Of course the fix was to cease my spark-gap ways.

In the fall of 1957 I got legal and went on the air with a DX-40 transmitter and my trusty S-53A receiver. Dave also got legal, upped the power on his BC equipment and went on to become a columnist for *CQ Magazine* and author of several ham radio topical books.

Morse Tutor MK3—Review

by Dennis Franklin, K6DF

The Morse Tutor MK3 kit was designed by Paul Webb MØBMN and is easy and fun to build, with many different modes to help you learn and increase your Morse skills. It also has a small display that shows you what mode you are in as well as what is being sent. Features of the MK3 include, variable character speed, variable gap between characters, and volume control. A single Mode button allows you to change modes to send random letters, numbers, pro-signs, call signs, common words and abbreviations. There is also a Contest mode. Code is generated and adjustable from 11 to 30 words per minute.

Opening the box shows bags of parts that are carefully taped to the box to keep them secure during shipment (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Kit parts

As with any kit, read all the instructions before starting construction. Check all of the parts against the “parts check-off list” to make sure you have all the correct parts. No parts were missing in this kit. I was very impressed with the printed circuit board quality. The boards are very well made and have through-plated holes. Part placement, orientation, and function are clearly marked on the boards as shown in Figure 2.

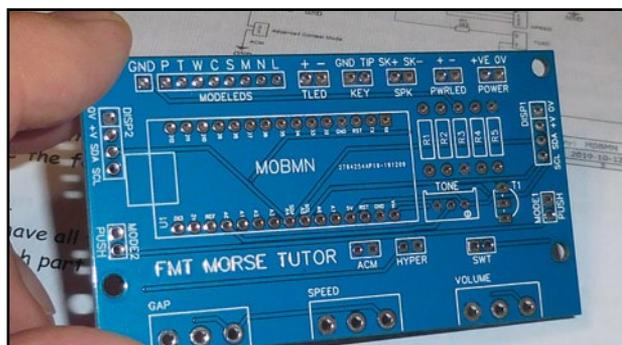


Figure 2: Circuit Board

An enclosure was not included with this kit, which allows you to choose your own. Items such as the Speed, Gap, Volume and Mode controls can be mounted on the main circuit board (Figure 3) or mounted separately in an enclosure. The same holds true for the Display module. I wish to mount my kit in a small plastic box but was unable to obtain a proper enclosure due to the stay-at-home order for the past few months. In order to check out the operation for this article I simply wired up the controls with some spare wire.

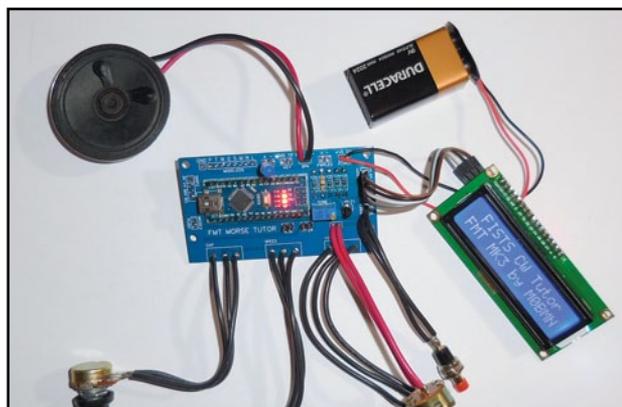


Figure 3: Mounted controls

After turning on the power, I adjusted the small blue pot on the back of the display board to get a pleasing display. Various operating modes are easy to select simply by pressing the Mode button. Each Mode button press advances the

(Continued on page 10)

Morse Tutor MK3, (continued)

operation to the next mode, Letters, Numbers, Pro-Signs, etc. If you hook up a hand key to the place marked “Key” on the circuit board and select the Practice mode, you can use the Tutor as a code practice oscillator.

An interesting side note regarding the Gap control. In Letters, Numbers, and Mixed modes the Gap control changes the space between each character. When in Call Signs, Words, and Contest modes, the Gap control only changes the space between words. I find this is a nice feature.

With the addition of a small jumper, the Contest mode can be changed to Advanced Contest Mode. This feature allows each exchange to have different pitch and speed to be more like “on-the-air” type of operation. Higher code speeds can be obtained by another jumper block to allow speeds up to near 60 WPM.



Figure 4: Start-up display

My plans for this Tutor MK3, once I have it properly boxed up, are to loan it to a couple of ham friends of mine and see how they like it. I will post a completed photo in another newsletter along with comments received from other hams.

If you wish more information about this kit, you can contact Paul Webb M0BMN at the following email address: m0bmn@yahoo.co.uk.

“FB” (or Facebook with FISTS)

by Joe Falcone, N8TI

There is a group on Facebook called “FISTS CW Club, Americas Chapter.” I am sure you all know what Facebook is and how it works. But, you may not know that there is a lot of interesting activity on that group’s pages on Facebook. For example, there are a lot of good, honest hints and suggestions on how you can improve your code speed. In addition, there are always conversations regarding how you can improve the quality of your sending with a bug, sidewinder, or straight key.

Perhaps most important is that a lot of FISTS Members will announce when they are on the air and the frequency. For example, if you know you are going to be on the air on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. EST, on 7.058, you can simply announce it a few days in advance and have a couple of reminders in between.

One of the problems we have as ham radio operators is that the internet makes it very convenient to engage in amateur radio without actually getting on the air. At one time, you received your CQ and QST magazines in the mail, spent a few hours reading them and if you wanted to think about amateur radio after that, you were forced to either get on the air, go to a club meeting, or get the soldering iron out and build something. Now, if you have three minutes, you can pull out your phone and spend those minutes “engaging” in ham radio. That may give you your ham radio “fix” and you may never make it on the air. However, if this is the “new normal,” let’s go with the flow, but try to work in some actual on the air time.

My reason for bringing up Facebook is that there are people in the Facebook group who you can easily contact and arrange to make contacts with. Maybe take a minute before you get on the

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"FB" (continued)

air and announce where you are going to be on the bands. There are other groups on Facebook that have people who are interested in Morse Code and ham radio in general. The odds are that almost everyone who is a CW operator nowadays will be a member of FISTS and will be very interested in contacting you on the air.



Spring 2020 Sprint Results

FISTS Spring Slow Sprint Results

QRO Category

Call	Name	State	FISTS#	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
KA8HFN	Larry	OH	11631	7	3	41	8	328
K6DF	Dennis	CA	3076	4	3	26	6	156
ON4LFO	Pol	DX	18127	3	3	21	4	84
K5YQF	Cecil	TX	8077	2	2	14	3	42
W5RES	Paul	NM	19964	2	0	10	1	10
KA2IRQ	Marlo	NJ	19414	2	0	10	1	10
N4API	Brian	GA	19973	1	0	5	1	5
WU6P	Nianfeng	CA	19333	1	0	5	1	5

Club Category

Call	Name	State	FISTS#	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
KMORSE	Dennis	CA	18000	2	10	2	20	40

QRP Category—No logs received

FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint Results

QRO Category

Call	Name	State	FISTS#	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
K5YQF	Cecil	TX	8077	20	15	130	21	2730
WB2RPW	Gary	OH	19606	14	9	88	16	1408
K6DF	Dennis	CA	3076	10	8	66	12	792
KA8HFN	Larry	OH	11631	9	8	61	10	610
WI5H	Mike	TX	16705	6	8	46	12	552
N4API	Brian	GA	19973	1	0	5	1	5
KG5SSB	Dan	CA	19890	1	0	5	1	5

Club Category—No logs received

QRP Category

Call	Name	State	FISTS#	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
AB9BZ	David	IL	8401	1	0	5	1	5

Soapbox

Call	Comments
KA8HFN	<i>Thanks for all the fun CW QSOs during this Sprint, Larry</i>
K6DF	<i>Had a great time this year. Worked a new member (Paul W5RES) as well as an old friend (Larry KA8HFN). The bands were a bit crowded this Sprint, although it's good to hear all those stations working CW. 73, Dennis</i>

Soapbox

Call	Comments
K6DF	<i>Had a fun time with this Sprint, worked from my home station using the 20 meter beam. Worked more FISTS members this time. 73, Dennis</i>
K5YQF	<i>Great band conditions compared to last week. A fun afternoon and almost like the old days.</i>
KA8HFN	<i>Thank you for all of the FISTS QSOs. Good luck. 73, Larry</i>

SPRINT INFORMATION

FISTS Sprints are a great way to meet other FISTS members, collect FISTS numbers, and have a lot of fun. We hope to work you in the next FISTS SPRINT.

OBJECTIVE:

To exchange specified information with as many FISTS members as possible using Morse Code only, and within the time frame stipulated.

PARTICIPANTS:

Any properly licensed amateur radio operator, FISTS member or non-member is invited to take part in the contest. At least one of the two stations in each QSO must be a FISTS member.

DATE AND TIME:

SUMMER SLOW SPEED SPRINT—runs from 0000 UTC to 0400 UTC on Saturday July 4, 2020

SUMMER UNLIMITED SPRINT—runs from 0000 UTC to 0400 UTC on Saturday July 11, 2020

FALL SLOW SPEED SPRINT—runs from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on October 3, 2020

FALL UNLIMITED SPRINT—runs from 1700 UTC to 1200 UTC on October 10, 2019

BANDS:

Operation is limited to the following amateur bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz amateur bands. Look for other participants around the FISTS frequencies: 3558, 7058, 14058, 21058, and 28058 kHz.

Work stations only once per band.

ENTRY CLASSES:

There are three entry classes: Club, QRO, and QRP.

QRO: Over 5 watts–100 watts output power. 100 watts is the maximum output power allowed.

QRP: 5 watts output power or less.

Club: (regardless of power).

Entry class **MUST** be shown on logs to be considered for entry in a particular class, or will be assumed QRO. An entry must be ONE class only, no combination of classes is allowed.

EXCHANGE:

The following information must be exchanged by both stations and shown in your log to count as a valid contest QSO:

FISTS members: RST, U.S. state/Canadian province/DXCC country, first name, FISTS number.

Non-FISTS members: RST, U.S. state/Canadian province/DXCC country, first name, output power.

DX COUNTRY STATUS:

U.S. states and Canadian provinces are those states and provinces that are contiguous and found within the North American continent. DX are those entities listed in the current ARRL DXCC publication, other than the above.

MULTIPLIERS:

Each U.S. state and Canadian province counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked. Each DXCC entity counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked.

SCORING:

Each QSO with a FISTS member: 5 QSO points.
Each QSO with a non-FISTS member: 2 QSO points.
Final score is total QSO points times multipliers.

CERTIFICATES:

Certificates will be awarded to the first, second, and third place finishers in each Entry Class.

LOG SUBMISSIONS:

All logs must be received within 30 days after the Sprint to be considered valid. Logs not sent to the proper address will not be considered for entry. The logs will be spot checked for accuracy and correct scoring procedures.

All logs **MUST** contain the following information for entry: Your name and call sign. Club name if entry is for a club. Your FISTS number if a member. Entry class. Your claimed score. List of claimed multipliers. FISTS Number for FISTS QSOs and Power Output for Non-FISTS QSOs.

ELECTRONIC LOGS:

We accept electronic logs in standard Cabrillo format or ASCII text files. If you're not sure about your format, please contact us before the contest entry deadline. E-logs are sent to sprintlogs@fistsna.org ONLY.

PAPER LOGS:

Send log and forms to: FISTS Sprint Log, 4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA 94536-5448.

FISTS SPRINT ENTRY FORM

Entry Class: QRO _____ QRP _____ CLUB _____

SCORING: _____ QSO points X _____ multipliers = _____ final score

CLUB Name _____ FISTS Club # _____

Name _____ Call sign _____ FISTS # _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip Code) _____

E-mail Address (optional) _____

MULTIPLIER CHECK-OFF LIST

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	VE	DX
CT	NY	DE	AL	AR	CA	AZ	MI	IL	CO	NB	NF/LB
MA	NJ	MD	FL	LA		ID	OH	IN	IA	NS	NT
ME		PA	GA	MS		MT	WV	WI	KS	PE	YK
NH			KY	NM		NV			MN	QC	BC
RI			NC	OK		OR			MO	ON	
VT			SC	TX		UT			NE	MB	
			TN			WA			ND	SK	
			VA			WY			SD	AB	

Please enclose paper logs ONLY, photos, comments, ideas, etc., with your entry and mail promptly to:

FISTS Sprint Logs

4658 Capitan Drive
Fremont, CA 94536-5448

I HAVE OBSERVED ALL FISTS SPRINT COMPETITION RULES AS WELL AS ALL REGULATIONS FOR AMATEUR RADIO IN MY COUNTRY. MY REPORT IS CORRECT AND TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. I AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE DECISIONS OF THE FISTS AWARDS COMMITTEE.

Date _____ Signature _____ Call sign _____

Comments:

TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR FISTS MEMBERSHIP

CHANGES COMING JAN 1, 2021 to AMERICAS CHAPTER MEMBERSHIPS

1. All Americas Chapter memberships will be dues-free for life.
 - A) Expired memberships will be changed to Life memberships on Jan 1, 2021.
 - B) Current paid memberships that expire this year will be changed to Life memberships on their expiration date.
 - C) All New Memberships after April 2, 2020 will be entered as Life memberships.
2. *Keynote* newsletters will be produced each quarter and will be available free to all members and the public as an on-line PDF download.
3. A printed and mailed newsletter will be available at a yearly subscription rate of \$25 for USA members and \$35 for chapter members outside the USA.
 - A) All current "Mailed" newsletters will change to on-line versions on Jan 1, 2021, unless you have a paid subscription.

On Aug 15, 2018 we started a trial program of two years with no dues for new members as well as offering a two-year free membership extension to current club members as of that date. These two-year memberships came with downloaded newsletters only. This was done to reduce the yearly increasing costs of printing and mailing newsletters to the membership. This coming August 15th we will come to the end of the original two-year dues-free offer.

The two-year dues free program seems to be working very well and many members have opted to download their newsletters from the Americas Chapter website page. As a result only 8.7% of the membership are now receiving printed and mailed newsletters. We would like to reduce that

further but we realize that there are a number of our members that either have no Internet service or they simply prefer a printed and mailed newsletter. Unfortunately the only way we can continue to offer that choice is to charge a subscription rate to offset the cost of printing and postage. This is the reason for the \$25 per year for USA members and \$35 per year for those members outside the USA starting Jan 1, 2021. Because the future cost of printing and postage will most likely increase from time to time, these subscription rates may change in the future.

Details for printed/mailed newsletter subscriptions will follow towards the end of this year. **DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY AT THIS TIME !**

Award certificates will continue to be printed and mailed free to all chapter members for the foreseeable future. A fee may need to be charged at some time in the future. PDF award certificates may be made available for on-line download at a future date.

Volunteer Retirements

Ann Fanelli, WI2G, has been the Americas Chapter volunteer sending out ARRL Radio Grams from the chapter president to all new members. Ann has been doing this for quite some time. Many of our new members may remember receiving her messages.

Dave Bamford, W2DAB, has been working as the Americas Chapter Sprints Manager and has been checking Sprint logs and sending out certificates to the winners.

The Americas Chapter staff send a special "Thank You" to both Ann and Dave for jobs well done.

FISTS CW CLUB Membership Application/Renewal



For North, Central, and South America including all territories and islands.

Call sign _____ NEW Member or Renewal, Enter FISTS # _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZIP+4 _____ Phone _____

Rig (optional) _____

Other club affiliations (optional—ARRL, RSGB, etc.) _____

A User Name and Password will be sent to the e-mail address you provide below to give you access to current On-Line Newsletters as well as Member Only Areas of the FISTS CW Club web site.

E-Mail _____

Regular Membership—**On-Line** Newsletters*

Family Membership—Please provide the Name, Call, and FISTS # of the member.

Name _____ Call _____ FISTS # _____

Under Age 18-FREE Membership—Birthdate Required mm/yyyy _____

Over Age 80-FREE Membership—Birthdate Required mm/yyyy _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Send application to:
FISTS CW CLUB
c/o Dennis Franklin, K6DF
4658 Capitan Dr.
Fremont, CA 94536 USA

*E-Mail required
01/01/2020

Americas Chapter, FISTS CW Club
3000 Town Center, Suite 2370
Southfield, MI 48075
www.fistsna.org
webmaster@fistsna.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ANN ARBOR, MI
PERMIT #229

FISTS CW Club
Americas Chapter

Send in your stories and photos for *The KeyNote!*
keynote@fistsna.org

When you've worked a FISTS, you've worked a friend.

