

# The KeyNote



Newsletter of the Americas Chapter, FISTS CW Club—The International Morse Preservation Society  
Issue 2, 2021

## Piano, Guitar, or Straight Key?

Bryan Bergeron NU1N, Editor

In his newly released 4th Edition of *Ham Radio for Dummies*, ARRL Handbook Editor and CQ Contest Hall of Fame Member Ward Silver likens learning CW to learning a musical instrument. Proficiency requires a great deal of focused, repetitive study using proven techniques. The payoff—a sense of immense personal accomplishment, awaits all who persevere and stay focused. I couldn't agree more with Ward and his assessment of the challenges and rewards associated with learning CW.

Although I'm only a bedroom guitar player at best, my experience with guitar, then drum, back to guitar, piano and then, finally, back to guitar again taught me that plateaus in learning are unavoidable. When you hit a plateau, there's a temptation to move on to something else—something that will provide immediate satisfaction because of the gains that occur early on when learning something new. Looking back over the years of private and, most recently, online lessons, it's clear that I would be much better with guitar now if I had simply stuck with it and stayed focused.

When I learned to send CW, I used a straight key out of necessity. At less than \$5, a straight key was all that I could afford, together with a simple oscillator and the 33 LP training record—all from Radio Shack. A used Vibroplex bug from the 40's took years to acquire, followed by an electronic iambic keyer and finally a keyboard



My favorite Begali. A boat anchor like no other.

CW generator that I built with analog chips and a hard-wired ROM. I never did succumb to the temptation of an automatic code reader. That seemed to defeat the real challenge of pulling a

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

## INFORMATION PAGE

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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](mailto:awards@fistsna.org)  
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

### Club Call, KNØWCW

Cody Codianni, KC2LSD, [kc2lsd@fistsna.org](mailto: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](mailto:membership@fistsna.org)  
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

### FISTS Store Manager

Joe Falcone, N8TI, [fistsstore@fistsna.org](mailto:fistsstore@fistsna.org)  
9880 Musch Road, Brighton, MI 48116

### Activities Manager

"Vacant"

If interested email to:

Joe Falcone N8TI [fistsstore@fistsna.org](mailto:fistsstore@fistsna.org)

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

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, [webmaster@fistsna.org](mailto:webmaster@fistsna.org)  
4658 Capitan Dr., Fremont, CA 94536-5448

### Code Buddy Volunteers and Buddies

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

### FISTS Sprints

E-logs to [sprintlogs@fistsna.org](mailto: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](mailto:feetwetlogs@fistsna.org),  
[g3zqslogs@fistsna.org](mailto:g3zqslogs@fistsna.org)  
15 Flintlock Ridge Rd., Katonah, NY 10536-2510

### The KeyNote Newsletter

Bryan Bergeron, NU1N, [keynote@fistsna.org](mailto:keynote@fistsna.org)

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

**NOTE: Image files need to be high resolution  
JPGs (at least 1000 pixels wide).**

**Send your Word or text files to  
[keynote@fistsna.org](mailto:keynote@fistsna.org)**

## The KeyNote

The Newsletter of the Americas Chapter of FISTS

Issue 2, 2021

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Send articles to:

[keynote@fistsna.org](mailto:keynote@fistsna.org)

Design: Mary Cronin

## Americas Chapter, President's Message

By Joe Falcone, N8TI

### HAM RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL

A few months ago, I got the “Pandemic Blues” and decided that a new radio might cheer me up. I decided that I would set up a station on the kitchen counter next to the doorwall to the deck. I put up a 133 foot end-fed half-wave wire using a 1:64 unun I bought off of eBay for \$15.00 including shipping. The 18 gauge speaker wire used for the antenna cost me about \$10.

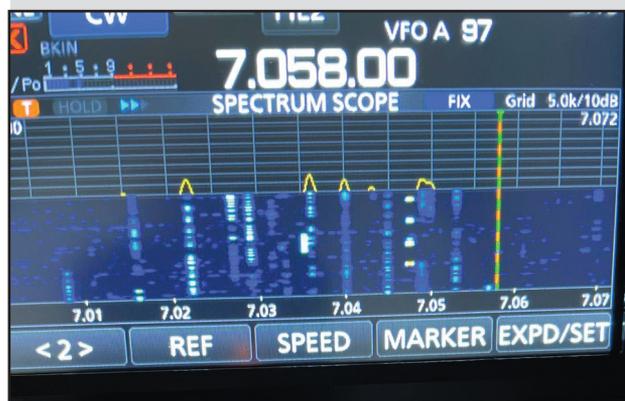
I used about 18 feet of RG-8X to get to the doorwall, but to get the feedline into the house through the weather stripping on the doorwall, I had to use about six feet of U.S. Army comm wire, which is like zip cord. It is made of steel strands with copper strands mixed in. I figured that if it could stand up to a tank running over it, it would survive my doorwall.

Of course, my SWR is not very good, but the LDG tuner takes care of it. Since I had not bought a radio since the 1990s, I thought I would go somewhat modern and bought an IC-7300. Adjustable filtering for CW work is a big advantage with this radio. Plus, it is fairly easy to operate as compared to some of the new radios out there.

Now, I have my station set up in the kitchen and I use it when I drink my morning coffee and before I turn in at night. I am on the air more than I have been in years.

Here is the surprising part—I found that the Ham bands are now back to being crowded. The IC-7300 has a “waterfall” display. I am

including a photo of the CW portion of 40 meters on a Thursday night around 10:00 p.m., EST. All those waterfall lines are CW conversations going on. Not only is 40 meters happening, but 20 meters as well. It is busy. There are no shortage of operators on the bands.



IC-7300 display.

When I was looking for a radio, I went to YouTube to see the radio reviews. There I found not only radio reviews but hundreds of videos of Hams, young and old, using their radios, making antennas and talking about CW. In fact, I was pleasantly surprised that younger hams, who did not have to pass a code test, were learning CW because they could make more contacts when they were engaged in Summits on the Air and Parks on the Air and other in-the-field radio activities.

Apparently what has happened in the last ten years or so is that the radio manufacturers have come out with full-featured QRP radios that cost as much or more than a base station radio, but include antenna tuners, all-mode capabilities

*(continued on page 4)*

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## Piano, Guitar, or Straight Key? (cont.)

muddled CW signal out of a pileup or an outrageously high noise floor.

With the exception of VHF and UHF FM, I had little interest in voice communications. Telephones were good for that. Given my focus on CW, the Extra class license came easily, as did those speed certificates from the ARRL back in my certificate collecting days. Today, there are no certificates on my ego wall, save the required FCC license. The CW is all internalized, expressed on occasion through my favorite straight key. Like everyone else who has practiced for years, keying the code just happens, without conscious effort. On the receiving end, the code comes in words and phrases, not the dits and dahs I studied for my Novice exam. And, as Ward says, it's an immense personal accomplishment, shared and only truly understood by an audience of fellow hams on the other end of QSOs.

If you're a ham just happening across this article, as you contemplate whether to learn CW as part of your ham radio experience, then pick your instrument—say, a nice, heavy straight key—and stick with it. Don't be distracted with a fancy iambic keyer with memory until after you've mastered the straight key. Or start with the iambic. Point is, stay focused, study, and you'll reap the rewards.

73, Bryan

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## President's Message (continued)

and excellent receivers. In addition, some manufacturers have full hundred-watt radios that are not that much larger than a normal QRP radio; for example, the Yaesu FT-891. The manufacturers are learning that people will pay well over a thousand dollars for a full featured QRP radio.

The new ham operators do not stop there. They love to make or buy antennas. Like Hams of yesteryear, these younger Hams love to experiment and post videos comparing rigs and antennas.

People all over the world love to be outside and Hams are no different. The ability to take a radio outdoors with the new breed of lighter and higher-capacity batteries has spurred an interest in Ham radio with younger people who are now realizing that CW is the way to go. They understand that CW fully utilizes the low output of QRP portable radios or compromised antennas. Ham radio and CW is not in any way dying out. It is growing every day.

When you think of it, we FISTS have been telling people for years and years that CW is efficient, fun and is the mode that always gets through. We believe that CW is the best mode. As a result, it should be no surprise that new hams, once they start in Amateur Radio, had to come to the same conclusion. And they did.

When I turn on my radio, it reminds me of how the bands sounded back in the 1990s when there was still a code requirement for licensing and we were having a good sunspot cycle. The IC-7300, with its waterfall display, shows a clear picture of the signals across the band. Simply put, the bands are as busy as they ever were. These are the "good old days." This sunspot cycle is going to find a record number of Hams on the air.

One fact to note is that most of the operators are sending and receiving CW at about 13 to 15 words a minute. These are not old Signal Corp guys from WW II. The people on the bands now are just people who decided that CW is fun and useful. The Hams that I have talked to are all very nice and just out there to "play radio."

There have been changes in our hobby. The smaller, more feature-rich radios have attracted younger, active people, who like to mix enjoying the outdoors with Ham radio. This breed of

*(continued on page 6)*

# WELCOME NEW FISTS AMERICAS CHAPTER MEMBERS

Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C	Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C
AC1KM	20799	Patrick	NH	KT4VK	20838	Hilary	FL
N2VSN	20800	Rick	FL	K7NIV	20839	Thomas	AZ
AL3G	20801	Michael	MD	KB2RSQ	20840	Peter	NY
WI6X	20802	James	CA	K7GUD	20841	Pat	ID
W6AJR	20803	Shiung	CA	VA7ABP	20842	Byung	BC
NQ8Z	20804	Chris	CT	W4MMP	20843	Ronald	VA
KC2BKM	20805	Patrick	NY	WA7RV	20844	Mike	AZ
W7CZA	20806	Clyde	WA	N9OJR	20845	Erik	OH
K7PGR	20807	Phillip	AZ	W9EB	20846	Jan	IN
KZ3T	20808	Dan	NC	N7JM	20847	Jim	NV
K4TZT	20809	Paul	VA	WB7PNC	20848	Bill	IL
N2UD	20810	Tom	FL	AA4Q	20849	Bill	AZ
N9BOX	20811	Nicholas	IN	W1FRR	20850	Fred	NH
KR4VT	20812	Robert	KY	K5CJ	20851	Joseph	TX
KD3ZD	20813	John	PA	K7SBF	20852	Stan	AZ
KI4ECX	20814	Jeffrey	TN	KJ7WDB	20853	Travis	OR
N4FH	20815	Mark	AL	KI5GFL	20854	Rob	TX
VE9SC	20816	Stephen	NB	KK5JD	20855	John	TX
KF5UCO	20817	Ric	TX	WE7DW	20856	Dave	OR
KJ7UCJ	20818	Oscar	OR	KI7I	20857	Tom	AZ
KC3NIE	20819	Kelly	MD	K9FVR	20858	Mel	CO
N1SFR	20820	Robert	VA	VA2KT	20859	Christian	QC
KB1RUL	20821	Joel	CT	W8VX	20860	Josh	OH
KD9LTN	20822	Mike	IL	AK6A	20861	Bill	OR
KE8PAG	20823	Tom	MI	KG6ECW	20862	Michael	AZ
N4DIN	20824	Dennis	NC	KE0SEZ	20863	Brad	CO
KJ0CFW	20825	Jon	CO	KC9UBK	20864	Kevin	WI
KD1JL	20826	John	MA	N3JWM	20865	John	NV
KE8LQR	20827	Kate	OH	AB4CU	20866	John	FL
AB3XE	20828	Richard	MD	KA1LHJ	20867	John	CT
KG5WOY	20829	Erik	AR	KF1DD	20868	Kenneth	ID
KC9FHV	20830	Paul	FL	N8TDV	20869	Tim	OH
KA8KPN	20831	Jonathan	TX	K2RLA	20870	Philip	NY
NN0TE	20832	Trent	FL	K9ACM	20871	Mike	IL
N4TIZ	20833	Byron	NC	KW0JIM	20872	Jim	IA
KV1V	20834	Julia	MA	AD0L	20873	Michael	CA
KD9OBP	20835	David	IN	WD0END	20874	Ronald	MN
KE4JEE	20836	Brad	CA	N2XD	20875	John	NC
WW0SS	20837	Nick	MN				

(continued on page 6)

## New Members (continued)

Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C	Call	FISTS#	First Name	S/P/C
WB9NOE	20876	Roger	FL	WB5JMJ	21014	Michael	NH
KM4JTE	20877	John	FL	N1KEZ	21015	Rob	OR
KE0FOM	20878	Thomas	MO	KC1OUC	21016	Robert	NH
AC9XX	20879	John	IL	K7IOL	21017	James	TX
N4ARD	20880	Anthony	TN	W7QZ	21018	Roger	CA
KJ8U	20881	Tim	TX	W1TED	21019	Ted	NH
N9UNX	20882	Chad	IN	VA2GJ	21020	Gerald	QC
KI0KE	20883	Bob	MN	WB8VBT	21021	Carl	OH
N5WSG	20884	William	TX	KN4UCN	21022	Bobby	AL
K5WAN	20885	Wendell	GA				
W5HII	20886	Rusty	TX				
AA1ZP	20887	Stewart	NH				
KN4MBS	20888	Steve	FL				
AB5DY	20889	James	TX				
W7RMM	20890	Richard	AZ				
XE2MWY	20891	Armando	CP				
KA8VYG	20892	Charles	CT				
WB1D	20893	Ben	IL				
K6RBM	20894	Raymond	TN				
KF0FEE	20895	Markus	CO				
WO2K	20896	William	NY				
N2APB	20897	George	TN				
WW2L	20898	Levent	NJ				
N2GSL	20899	Edward	NY				
WA8PCW	21000	Bob	OH				
NA0F	21001	Larry	MN				
AI5CY	21002	Park	MS				
W8CA	21003	Ken	MI				
K6XC	21004	Ron	CA				
W3JJT	21005	John	PA				
WD0BDW	21006	Bill	KS				
KA5ZKR	21007	Gary	TX				
W0TDF	21008	Parker	CO				
KC3O	21009	William	FL				
W4VQS	21010	Club	VA				
N4TEY	21011	Nate	FL				
KY4E	21012	Terry	SC				
W5KBM	21013	Don	MI				

February 15, 2021 to May 15, 2021

## President's Message (continued)

Ham has attracted the attention of the manufacturers, not only of radios, but antennas, keys and batteries. These newer hams are every bit as interested in Ham radio as any of us and they are very active on the bands.

So, if you thought that the bands were “dead” and Ham radio was “dying,” take another listen to the bands. There is more than enough CW activity to keep us all interested and occupied through this new sunspot cycle.

73, de Joe N8TI

## Thank You!

FISTS NA would like to thank all the operators in this year's Nancy Kott special event: Dennis K6DF, Joe N8TI, Alan WB9JTK/4, Larry KA8HFN and Cody KC2LSD.

This year we made almost 100 contacts including 9 DX stations. Thank you all who worked KN0WCW. We're looking forward to next year's event with even more operators

73 KN0WCW FISTS NAN

## FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

Congratulations to all who earned operating awards from Feb 16, 2020 to May 15, 2021.

Award certificates are available, from the Members Area of the Americas Chapter website, for members to download to their own computer for printing. A list of awards issued to your call/member-number is available in the Members Area. FISTS members may log into the Members Area from the following web page: [fistsna.org/memlogon.php](http://fistsna.org/memlogon.php)

Much has changed in the world since the beginning of 2021. COVID-19 problems have encouraged more members to get on the air since we are all spending more time at home. Seems many members are working on and obtaining FISTS awards, especially members in the European Chapter. I know I've been on the air more this year and it has been fun meeting old friends as well as making new ones.

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:

W4CMG Cathy—QSO with W3JJB  
 W3JJB John—QSO with W4CMG  
 KK7XV Ed—QSO with K6DF  
 AI8AI Ai—QSO with W4CMG  
 KC3PZY Jonathan—QSO with WI5H  
 AK6A Bill—QSO with K6DF

We have a list of new members shown elsewhere in this issue of *The Keynote*. Please listen

for them on the bands and help them to earn their FISTS Key Patch!

Award certificates are available free to all club members, in PDF format, 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 April 17, 2021 to version 4.0.6. 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.

Be sure to check the Americas Chapter web pages for updated awards information and how to apply for them: [www.fistsna.org/awards.html](http://www.fistsna.org/awards.html)

If you have any awards questions or suggestions, send e-mail to me at: [awards@fistsna.org](mailto:awards@fistsna.org)

Wishing you and yours stay safe and healthy.

73, Dennis K6DF ...\_. \_\_\_\_\_ (30)

**FISTS AWARDS ISSUED: Feb 16, 2020– May 15, 2021**

**Century Award:** G3JRH, HA2ZB

**Platinum Award:** K4MQM

**Millionaire Award:** NN9K, HA2ZB

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## FISTS Awards (continued)

**2 Million Award:** NN9K

**3 Million Award:** NN9K, IK2WAD

**4 Million Award:** NN9K, SQ9S

**5 Million Award:** NN9K, G0PNM

**6 Million Award:** NN9K, PA7RA, G0PNM

**7 Million Award:** VE9VIC, I5ECW

**8 Million Award:** VE9VIC

**Spectrum Award:** IU0HMB

**Spectrum 80M:** G0PNM

**Spectrum 20M:** SQ9S

**Perpetual Prefix:** IU0ITX

**Prefix 50 Sticker:** IU0ITX

**Prefix 100 Sticker:** IU0ITX

**Prefix 150 Sticker:** IU0ITX, PA3HEN

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## CWops Announces 2021 Award Recipient for Advancing the Art of CW

**Riki Kline, K7NJ Chair, CWops Award for Advancing CW Committee**

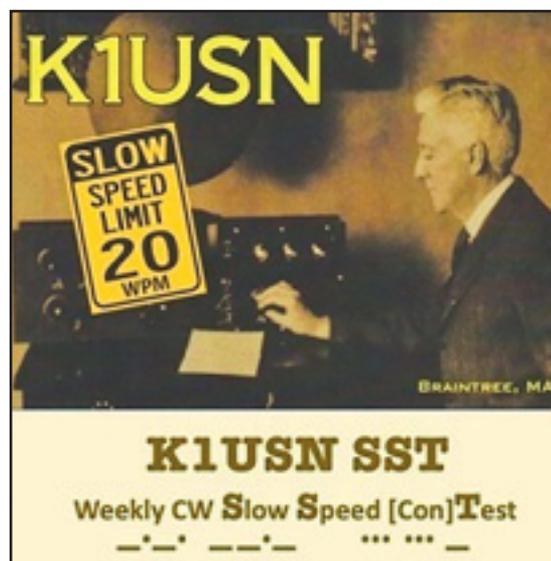
The CWops Club is a worldwide organization of CW enthusiasts with over 2500 members who strive to promote and encourage the use of CW and CW education. CWops supports a range of events and programs that allow members to continually learn, practice and improve their CW skills.

The purpose of this yearly award is to recognize individuals, groups and organizations that have made the greatest contribution(s) toward advancing the art or practice of radio communication by Morse Code. This is the sixth year that CWops has made this Award.

We were fortunate in 2021 to have received many worthy nominations for this year's award and we thank all the nominees for their continuing commitment to expanding the use and enjoyment of CW on the air. This year's winner stood out for creating and managing a new and very successful activity that in its first year has had a strong impact on getting new CW operators active on the air and integrating them into the larger CWops community.

### The K1USN Radio Club

The award went to K1USN Radio Club for creating and managing the K1USN Weekly Slow Speed [con]Test (SST) in the US and Europe. It provides a place for new and unpracticed CW operators to gather and operate at relaxed speeds in a friendly and encouraging manner that helps them continue to improve their CW skills.



# FISTS Spring Saturday 2021 Sprint Results

## QRO Category

Call	Name	State	FISTS#	QSOs	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
K5YQF	Cecil	TX	8077	13	9	4	53	11	583
KA8HFN	Larry	OH	11631	5	4	1	22	4	88
K2CWM	Curt	NJ	19359	2	2	0	10	2	20

## Club Category

**NO LOGS RECEIVED!**

## QRP Category

Call	Name	State	FISTS#	QSOs	Mem	Non-Mem	Points	Mults	Score
K3RLL	Don	FL	13504	3	2	1	12	3	36
K3JZD	Jody	PA	17513	3	3	0	15	2	30

## Miscellaneous



2018 Jeep Compass foot rest

### Automakers Honor Morse Code

If you peruse the Internet much, you may have come across the image at the left, which is the left foot rest from a 2018 Jeep Compass. Its Morse Code translates to Sand Snow Rivers Rocks...the places Jeeps are meant to go.

Also, the system audio start-up sequence from the new MINI Cooper SE (an electric vehicle) plays several melodies when you press the start/stop toggle switch, one thread is Morse Code for MINI.

These "Easter Eggs" are a fun way that automakers are keeping Morse Code alive.

#### What's Your Story?

Do you have a story to tell? Members would love to hear how you got interested in ham radio. Did someone mentor you as a child? Did you learn it in the service? What is an interesting experience you had using Morse Code? What is your favorite key/rig? Do you have an interesting QSO you'd like to tell members about? Or photos to share?

Send your stories/photos to [keynote@fistsna.org](mailto:keynote@fistsna.org).

# NEW SPRINT INFORMATION

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Sprints will be held eight times throughout the year on the first Saturday and third Sunday in each of the following months: Feb., May, and Aug., with the exception of Nov., which will be the second Saturday and third Sunday.

## OBJECTIVE:

To exchange specified information with as many FISTS members as possible using Morse Code only, and within the time frame stipulated. Sprints are a great opportunity for our newer members to get on the air, meet other club members, and have some fun! We encourage more experienced operators to please QRS to match the other operator's speed.

## 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.

## DATES AND TIMES:

**SPRING SATURDAY SPRINT:** from 1600 UTC to 1800 UTC on first Saturday in May.

**SPRING SUNDAY SPRINT:** from 2100 UTC to 2300 UTC on third Sunday in May.

**SUMMER SATURDAY SPRINT:** from 1600 UTC to 1800 UTC on first Saturday in August.

**SUMMER SUNDAY SPRINT:** from 2100 UC to 2300 UTC on third Sunday in August.

**FALL SATURDAY SPRINT:** from 1600 UTC to 1800 UTC on SECOND Saturday in November.

**FALL SUNDAY SPRINT:** from 2100 UTC to 2300 UTC on third Sunday in November.

## 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. You may NOT work the same station more than once.

## ENTRY CLASSES:

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

1. **QRO:** Over 5 watts to legal limit.
2. **QRP:** 5 watts output power or less.
3. **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 allowed.

## EXCHANGE:

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

*FISTS members:* RST, S/P/C, first name, FISTS number. *Non-FISTS members:* RST, S/P/C, first name. (Enter "0" Zero if your logging program requires a power entry for non-members.) S/P/C = U.S. State/Canadian Province/DXCC Country

## 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 (50) and Canadian province (13) counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked. Each DXCC country counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked. Canada and the USA do not count as DX multipliers.

## 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 the number of multipliers worked.

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## New Sprint Information (continued)

### CERTIFICATES:

Certificates will be awarded to the first, second, and third place finishers in each Sprint for each Entry Class. End-of-Year Certificates will be awarded ONLY to FISTS members with the highest cumulative point totals in the QRO, QRP and Club categories for all Sprints at the end of the year. Certificate will be sent to the winners via email in PDF format.

### LOG SUBMISSIONS:

All log entries must be received within 14 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:

1. Your name, call sign, mailing address, and FISTS Number if member.
2. Club name and call sign if entry is for a club station.
3. Sprint worked—Date of the Sprint worked.
4. Entry class—QRO, QRP, or Club.
5. Number of FISTS members worked.
6. Number of non-FISTS worked.
7. FISTS number for FISTS QSOs.
8. List of multipliers.
9. Your claimed score.

An entry form is available here and on the FISTS website at:

[fistsna.org/pdffdocs/sprint\\_entry\\_form\\_rev2.pdf](https://fistsna.org/pdffdocs/sprint_entry_form_rev2.pdf)

### ELECTRONIC LOGS:

We will accept electronic logs in standard Cabrillo or ASCII Text File format. If you're not sure about your format, please contact the Sprint Manager before the contest entry deadline. E-logs are sent to: [sprintlogs@fistsna.org](mailto:sprintlogs@fistsna.org) ONLY.

### PAPER LOGS:

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

## JAN. 1, 2021 CHANGES TO AMERICAS CHAPTER MEMBERSHIPS

All Americas Chapter memberships will be dues-free.

- Expired memberships will be changed to Life memberships on Jan 1, 2021.
- Current paid memberships that expire this year will be changed to Life memberships on their expiration date.
- All New Memberships received after April 2, 2020 will be entered as Life memberships.

Details about printed/mailed newsletter subscriptions appeared in Issue #4, 2020 of the *KeyNote*, which is available on the FISTS website at:

[www.fistsna.org/publickeynotes.html](http://www.fistsna.org/publickeynotes.html)

# FISTS SPRINT ENTRY FORM

**Check Sprint Entered:** Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ Sprint Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry Class:** QRO \_\_\_\_\_ QRP \_\_\_\_\_ FISTS Club \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ FISTS # \_\_\_\_\_ Non Member \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If Club, Club Name, Call \_\_\_\_\_ FISTS Nr. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

SCORING: Number of FISTS member QSOs: \_\_\_\_\_ × 5 = Total [A] \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Non-FISTS QSOs: \_\_\_\_\_ × 2 = Total [B] \_\_\_\_\_

Number of multipliers worked: \_\_\_\_\_ = Total [C] \_\_\_\_\_

Add [A] to [B] and multiply by [C] to get your TOTAL CLAIMED SCORE = \_\_\_\_\_

-----**CIRCLE WORKED MULTIPLIERS**-----

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	
						AK					

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

Statement: "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 \_\_\_\_\_

SOAPBOX COMMENTS:

# ADVERTISEMENTS



Mr J Melvin  
2 Salters Court, Gosforth  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE3 5BH

Web: [www.g3liv.co.uk](http://www.g3liv.co.uk)  
Email: [johnny.g3liv@gmail.com](mailto:johnny.g3liv@gmail.com)  
Tel: 0191 2843028

**CableTidy for Vibroplex keys**  
This is a series of 4 PC Boards and cables to greatly simplify and tidy up the cable connections of the shown VIBROPLEX keys.

The cables are 1 metre long and are terminated in a standard metal 6.4 mm stereo plug as found on most rigs. A 3.5 mm stereo plug cable can be supplied if REQUESTED.

The boards are double sided plated through and Silver plated.

**Red** in colour to match the Vibroplex red paddle keys however there is now a **BLACK** version for the VIBROPLEX ORIGINAL BUG models. The Rig cable is screened and flexible.

*Universal, GHD (2 models), Lionel J-36, K8RA Paddles & RAF Type D CableTidys also available.*

The keys are shown for demonstration ONLY and are NOT included in the price. You are purchasing the PC Board of choice and its Key to Rig cable.

All models inclusive of UK post costs are £21.00 or at a discount price of £18.00 for FISTS members (please quote your call sign when ordering).



### Isoterm Interfaces

USB Deluxe Dual	PSK31 Isoterm MulticonUSB	Isoterm Multimode interface	DATA Isoterm Traveller
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This is a range of radio-computer interfaces, available with a 5% discount for FISTS members. For further information and pricing, visit [www.g3liv.co.uk](http://www.g3liv.co.uk)

ALL products can be viewed at [www.g3liv.co.uk](http://www.g3liv.co.uk) For reviews, see [www.eham.net/reviews/detail/9689](http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/9689) and [www.eham.net/reviews/detail/1456](http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/1456)

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The "Swiss Army Knife" for all CW ops

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- ◆ Hearing loss correction
- ◆ Binaural reception and so much more!

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**+44 (0)1625-501643**

Contact the sellers directly or at [sales@fists.co.uk](mailto:sales@fists.co.uk)