

BRASSPOUNDER



For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge

January 2007

Hello All.

Been a busy January for me so far, with the new activity becoming active, AND I've been able to get on air a little with a temporary station to give a few points away. thanks to all who persevered with my less than effective set up to wheedle my call and details out of the ether. Also, family commitments have been a priority over the past few weeks so apologies if my waffling seems rather subdued this month.

Lets get straight on to business this month.

Firstly let me congratulate Buck, G00YH, who, after reading the article about the resurrection of GB2CW had offered his services to Peter and Phillip. And I'm very pleased to say that he was accepted and is preparing his station for GB2CW Broadcasts as this edition is being prepared. Let's hope that you'll pass on this information to any would be CW enthusiast who might just want to brush up on his receiving skills, or a beginner who is looking for some "On air" tuition.

Here are the details of my proposed GB2CW Code Transmissions;

OPERATOR Mr Buck Taylor G00YH.
FISTS # 1078.

ADDRESS 10 Rennes House, Vaughan Rd, Exeter EX1 3JW.

SCHEDULE 30 Minutes of 12wpm code. Broken up into five minute Segments. A break (AS) followed by station ID (GB2CW) After each five minute segment.

Script will be taken from past RADCOM magazines and/or Other current radio magazines. Plain language including all Punctuation and figures, plus combinations of figures and

Letters. As in callsigns, Model numbers etc.

TIMES Commencing at 2000 through to 2030 UTC each day.

FREQ Transmission will be on 40 mtr band, Freq 7.029 Mhz.
(This is the centre of activity for the FISTS UK group).
They kindly sponsored the air time.

DAYS Every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

NOTES At 2030 after the code transmissions. I will QSY to my own
Callsign (G0OYH) listen for any callers who would like further
On air contact(s) QRS or QRQ.

During the period after the code transmissions have ended,
I will endeavour to have the following, up and running, as a
Further means of feed back or requests.

QSONet (14.200) and Skype User name ' Barlinca'

*It would be a help, if members who have the time, whether they hear a GB2CW
Sked (or not), would post a a short message to indicate reception status.
The same format would help & that would be simply be :-*

SUBJECT GB2CW.

*TEXT Callsign, your locator, QSA (range 0 thru 5), i.e. QSA 2/3 (weak &
partly readable). or, QS 0 (nothing heard at all). Date of transmissions.*

i.e. G0OYH JO80FR QSA0 20/02/2006

*Locators were designed to give a general & accurate area of a stations
origins, not which door to knock on.*

From the above I can easily cut & paste into an Excel Data file. Thanks.

73Buck G0OYH

I've received this article from Stan, K4UK, who was of course the winner of the 2006
G3ZQS WARC Band activity.

Challenges in Amateur Radio

In my 59 plus years as an amateur, I have always enjoyed challenges, especially those on CW. I
guess that's why I enjoy the FISTS CW Club so much.

It was fun to go after the various Awards which FISTS offers including the "tough" ones like
Diamond Century, Platinum-500, NANFA, Rag Chewers, Worked All States and 2-Way QRP.

This year when the WARC Band Challenge was announced, I decided to see what I could accomplish operating on 30, 17 and 12 Meters. I really became engrossed in working the WARC bands. Looking back over my log for the year, I find I made a total of 1014 QSO's on those bands. And my overall log shows that outside on contacts, 95% of my contacts this year were on the WARC's.

The grid square for stations in the U.S. can be found on QRZ.COM by clicking on "Detailed info"

However, I did spend many hours tracking down the grid square of those folks outside of the U.S. who didn't know theirs. I have a big MacMillan World Atlas in which I was able to find the QTH of most of these stations. There were only 8 stations that I could not find in the Atlas.

The great majority of my contacts were made running an Elecraft K2 at 14 Watts into a 160 Meter inverted vee antenna. I did resort to running my Ten-Tec OMNI 6 at 90 Watts when conditions were marginal. While operating CW mobile I run a Ten-Tec Scout at 50 Watts into a Hustler antenna

During the year I contacted 727 different stations, of which 297 were FISTS members. Those contacts with members were from 186 different grid squares. The WARC Band Challenge permitted only those grids in which you worked a FISTS member to count for a multiplier.

In the challenge you scored 2 points for each QSO with a FISTS member and 1 point for each contact with a non-member. This meant you worked everybody you could. And it gave you a chance to tell the non-members about the FISTS CW Club.

Looking back at the log it is obvious I became engrossed in the challenge. I made at least one contact on a WARC band on 291 days of the year. During October there was only one day during the month that I didn't have a WARC band contact. And in April and August there were only two days without a WARC band QSO. It seemed to me that there was always something exciting happening on those bands.

What can you accomplish on the WARC bands? Well, I worked 75 countries on 30 Meters on all six continents and I worked 86 countries on all six continents on 17 Meters. Twelve Meters was seldom open, but I did have the thrill on December 23 of working 3XD2Z on that band.

I got 245 points worth of FISTS contacts on 30 Meters, almost enough to earn the Silver Century Award. I got 85 points worth of FISTS contacts on 17 Meters, just 15 shy of the Century Award.

I worked FISTS members in 23 countries and 4 continents. I enjoyed multiple chats with members throughout the world including those with: Larry, VQ9LA; Martin, IK2RMZ; Peter, G4LHI; Josh, 6Y5WJ; Jackie, 3B8CF; Doug, ZP6CW; Paul, F2YT; Jurek, EA6UN; Joe, V31JP; Julio, NP3CW; Richard, F5VJD and Pierre, VE2PID.

And I had multiple QSO's with many members here in the States particularly: Bert, W5ZR; Frank, WB4MED; Jay, AA9KH; Ed, W1GUE; Paul, WA9PWP and Al, WA7UQE.

My special thanks goes to Rob, K0RU (Ex - W8YRB) who operated mobile on 30 Meters and provided me with 10 grid different squares during his travels around Kansas and Oklahoma.

I also operate a lot of mobile in motion on my way to and from the golf course and when I deliver cards and envelopes to my QSL Bureau staff. I was able to make 177 QSO's on the WARC bands during the year from my Dodge van. Thirty-seven QSO's were on 30 Meters and 140 were on 17 Meters. Sixty-one of those contacts were with FISTS members in 49 different grid squares.

This year I was continually surprised with the propagation on the 30 Meter and 17 Meter bands.

Rob, MOBPT has announced that there will be a WARC Band Challenge again this year. So I'm going to make myself an additional challenge by limiting my operations to running QRP. So, fellow members get on the WARC bands. Have some fun and dig out that weak QRP signal of K4UK – Hi

!

73, Stan – K4UK

What Stan has written personifies the Amateur spirit. Here we have a "Senior" amateur who still finds time to be interested in something new within our radio hobby, having been licensed for 59+ years he has shown that the fun of radio communication is still there should you wish to go on and set yourself a challenge. Indeed. our own Peter, G4LHI and others set themselves goals and enjoy the fun of communicating with our chosen mode. Some of the activities within FISTS UK/EU this year have been tailored to specific times of operation so all who want to get on the key and chat with members, award chasers etc. Can do. Whatever your experience or skill of the mode, you can find something to interest you. Go on....Come on and give your number away to the members who are working towards an award within FISTS. At whatever level and speed you're at. We'll be happy to have a chat with you! Who knows, you may even think "I've enjoyed that, I'll submit my log for this and every month"

Stan had this to say when he submitted his log for the January 2007 WARC Challenge.

Attached is my January Log - WARC Challenge. Not able to spend much time this month due to doing a "Year-End Clear out" of cards in the FISTS QSL Bureau.

It's a bit tougher running QRP because some of the folks can't dig out my little peanut whistle - Hi

!

I was amazed to work VK2KM on 10.106 MHz on 1/26/07 at 2115 UTC - not bad for QRP.

I'm looking forward to the Challenge again this year.

Running QRP ought to add some more fun. Still really surprised at what I can do with only 5 Watts on the WARC bands.

My DX includes

F2YT, XT2C, EA8CN, V31JP, EA6UN, KP4SQ.

Really enjoyed being able to work ARRL Headquarters station -W1AW on 30 Meters.

It has FISTS Club # 10200 and Frank W2IX was the operator when I worked the station.

Been trying to figure whether to crank my Ten-Tec Scout down to 5 Watts for operating mobile or putting the K2 in the van when I'm running mobile on the WARC bands. The Scout is presently back in the factory.

The display went blank and without it I have no idea where I am in a band.

Even been thinking of springing for a new Ten-Tec Argonaut 5 for the mobile, but the Scout is so easy to run that I'm not sure I want all those switches and knobs on the other rig. I borrowed an IC 706 from W4YE for the last two weeks of the Challenge. But my, it was tough trying to figure out how to tune and adjust it while in motion. I was afraid I'd run off the road.

I did use it to make the 1000th QSO on the WARC bands with Joe, V31JP in Belize while I was mobile on my way home from the golf course on December 30 at 1925 UTC. I made him a special QSL card commemorating

that "Milestone QSO" - Hi !

From Peter, G4LHI. Who's got off to a flying start during January with the WARC Activity.

Hello Robert, The first month of the New Year has been & gone (how quickly time flies when you are enjoying yourself). So I attach my WARC Challenge claim for January & my report. I would like to congratulate the other Certificate recipients & thank all the participants of the 2006 WARC Band Challenge for their support & hope the ones that fell by the wayside that year will, together with other members, join in the fun during 2007. It is as the title suggests, a Challenge, & well worth a little effort to support our Fists Club's activities. My January entry is a little better than my January entry for 2006 & I do hope that this may be the trend during 2007 & we may get better band conditions & more new members joining in. I was fortunate to collect 10 Fists Squares & worked 70 new non-fists squares for my total of 149 points; some of these non fists were duplicated of course. For my ten multies, as well as my usual stalwarts, 2E0TEK, OH7QR, IK2RMZ, & M5ABN, I found HA5AK & SM7KJH working QRP, F2YT now he has found the challenge, having another go a little earlier this year, F/W2RDD on holiday in St Raphael, Terry G0TBD working on HMS Belfast in London & last but not least Jacky 3B8CF in Mauritius, I had to join a pile up for this one.

Cheers for now Robert & who knows one day M0BPT may also be on my claim that would be great

From Peter, M5ABN.

Hi Rob,

Attached is my Ladder Log for Jan'07. Had a good session on 80M, with plenty of activity. Nice also to meet two new Fists members, MW0ZAP & M5AFO good to have you on board. Thanks to all who came up & nice to meet some old faces again.

73 De Peter M5ABN #6423

A warm welcome to Martin, 2E0AYQ who joined in the QRS postcode challenge and was bedeviled with bad luck as he suffered a power cut during the activity. I hope you have a good session during February. Martin also joined in with the ladder activity. hope you are enjoying the fun.

Hi Rob.

Enclosed my log for the qrs postcode challenge
we had a power cut at the qth for 1/2 hour during the challenge
running QRP, 5watts with a FT817 and a Inverted L Antenna.

Also my log for the January ladder

Markus, DK9MS was running a rockmite @ 500mw, he was quite a good sig here

I decided to Increase power to 15W for the second session.

Klaus OZ7KDJ was a cracking sig here

73, Martin 2E0AYQ

Thanks for your report Martin. Hope to hear you on next time.

Got a couple of images of some of the award winners from 2006, they've kindly agreed to pose for a photo with their awards, and I shall be showing other recipients with theirs in future editions.

The first one shows M5ABN # 6423 who earned the 2005 Winners award during the ladder activity, and he also gained third position in the 2006 ladder activity. Peter is pictured with both the 2005 and 2006 awards. Well done Peter.



The second image shows a well known face amongst the members of the FISTS Activities scene. Non other than Peter, G4LHI #2219. Peter is pictured in his shack with his awards gained during 2006. Namely the winners award for the 2006 ladder activity and of course, the third position award in the G3ZQS WARC Band challenge. Again, well done Peter.



Thanks to both for taking time to pose for the images.

I've also received the results of the EUCW Fraternizing party 2006.

Results of the EUCW Fraternizing Party 2006

CALL	SCORE	CLUB
CLASS A		
1. F6KOP/P	9159	UFT
2. IK2RMZ	8775	AGCW
3. OZ1CAR	6536	SCAG
4. DL2FCA	3925	AGCW
5. DL5YL	3364	YLCWG
6. HB9RE	2886	HTC
7. PA0DIN	2530	BQC
8. DL8LBK	2178	SHSC
9. G4LHI	2231	FISTS
10. G00YH	1200	FISTS
11. OH7QR	672	FISTS
12. DL5YM	576	HSC
13. HB9DST	333	HTC
14. HB9QA	231	HTC

15. DL5SE 9 RTC

CLASS B

1. EI8FH	4158	G-QRP-C
2. PA3AFF	1064	BQC
3. HB9DEO	954	HTC
4. PA0ATG	539	BQC
5. G4FAI	429	FISTS
6. DK5RY	363	GQRPC
7. ON4ANE/M	9	FISTS
8. DL1LAW	3	GTC

CLASS C

1. YO9OC	4002
2. UA4LS	48

CHECKLOG
PG2AA

CLUB SCORING

1. BQC	20
2. AGCW	16
3. GQRP	15
4. FISTS	13
5. HTC	13
6. UFT	10
7. SCAG	8
8. YLCWG	6
9. GTC	3
10. SHSC	3

Some comments from the manager:

Sorry for the QRX, some of you sent their logs to the previous manager DJ2XP and it lasted some time until I finally got them.

Again I have to apologize for the missing results of the EUCW FP 2005. We tried our best but we could not get neither the final result nor the logs from DJ2XP, Gunter who fell seriously ill shortly after the 2005 FP. I am very sorry for this inconvenience.

Thanks to all participants who sent in their log entries.

Many participants made their comments about the FP and many of them complained

about the two
other contests (LZ Contest, INORC Contest) which took place at the same time. We are
well aware
of this situation and try to find a better solution. Unfortunately almost every weekend is
occupied by some contest. Feel free to make your proposal.

In this moment I can say: we will have a new date for the EUCW FP 2007. And there
will be some
major changes in the rules. Of course you will receive a notice on that as soon as the
new rules
are definitive. This information will also be spread to all EUCW clubs and will be
published on
the EUCW web site (<http://www.agcw.org/eucw/index.html>).

I look forward to receiving your log of the 2007 EUCW Fraternizing Party.

73 Joe DK7VW
- EUCW FP Manager -

Nice to see our members flying the flag for FISTS during the activity. Thanks to G4FAI,
G4LHI, G0OYH, OH7QR and ON4ANE/m for doing us proud.

Time for the first set of results tables for 2007.

Paul, F2YT, FISTS#12511 is a new addition to the WARC Challenge for 2007. You may
remember he put in an exceptional entry for the final month of the 2006 WARC activity
and has continued his thunderous effort for his Jan 2007 entry! Welcome Paul, I'm sure
that most of the participants who haven't worked you on the WARC frequencies will
look forward to doing so during 2007. I also welcome from FISTS NA, Harry, KA3NZR
#11316, Riley, K4ORD #4272, and Buddy, W4YE, #3929. Again, I know the FISTS EU
participants will be looking for you during this years activity. Peter, G4LHI and Martin,
IK2RMZ have got off to good start this year. With Stan K4UK also getting off to a good
start with his QRP operation. Thanks also to Erkki, OH7QR, and Graham, 2E0TEK for
joining in again this year. Lets hope that one or two more will pick up the key and join
in.

WARC Challenge

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	MULTI	MASTER	PWR
F2YT	431												431	27	11637	QRO
G4LHI	149												149	10	1490	QRO
IK2RMZ	106												106	10	1060	QRO
K4UK	55												55	15	825	QRP
OH7QR	59												59	5	295	QRO
W4YE	26												26	2	52	QRO
2E0TEK	16												16	2	32	QRO
KA3NZR	5												5	1	5	MIXED
K4ORD	4												4	1	4	QRP

two new entrants in addition to the usual supporters with ten logs being received. Welcome to PA0SOP#8988 and 2E0AYQ#12543. Thanks for joining the fray and hope you continue to have enjoyment working other members.

Ladder Activity.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
M5ABN		35											35
G4LHI		33											33
G6GUN		26											26
OH7QR		14											14
M0DRK		13											13
2E0AYQ		9											9
2E0TEK		8											8
G8XGQ		6											6
PA1SOP		6											6
IK2RMZ		4											4

On to the QRS Activity

Considering it was something new to the activity callendar, It was nice to see John, M0CDL and Martin, 2E0AYQ joining in, in the QRP section of the activity, poor Martin had to contend with a power cut during the on air times. Hope you're enjoying the activity?

Call	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	totals	Class
G4LHI	26												264	QRO
M5ABN	23												234	QRO
M0CDL	6												61	QRP
G8XGQ	4												43	MIXED
2E0AYQ													21	QRP

On a couple of occasions, I've managed to get on for a short while, and it's refreshing to hear new and not so new FISTS numbers on air giving the points away for the award chasers during the activities. This is what we need to hear on the bands. If you're on during the on air time slots join in, submit a log, everyone will welcome you.

Thats it from me this month. have fun during the activities. if I'm able to get on, hope to work you soon.

73.

"Keep bashing the brass"



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