

BRASSPOUNDER



July 2009

Greetings once again from MOBPT.

July has been and gone, not many logs received for the ladder this month, the holiday period no doubt has participants putting radio on the back burner. So, not a lot to report this month, I will say that some have not received my usual "log received" mail, so if anyone did send a log and I've not received it, I'll relax the "logs in by" rule and catch up next month.

As you know the WARC aActivity has finished, got a final comment from K4UK

Rob - MOBPT:

A couple weeks ago I thought I'd do a review of the States I've worked on 17 Meters. I found I had worked 42 States and the eight I needed to work were Delaware, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and West Virginia. I found I had cards from 19 States - 16 of which were from FISTS. Of the 31 States that I don't have cards for I've worked a FISTS member in 15 of them. So I sent out QSL's and SASE's to them. It will be a real "Challenge" to try to get cards from FISTS members for QSO's on 17 Meters in all the 50 States. But it will give me a reason to operate on that WARC band in the coming months (years ?) - Hi !

73, Stan - K4UK

P.S. Now 12 Meters is another story. I've worked only three States on 12 - Illinois, Texas, Virginia. Maybe one of these days 12 will open up.

Thanks for the comments Stan...You don't need any reason to operate on the WARC's Hi. I know you enjoy the challenge and surprises they hold.....12m?.....Now, thats a challenge. (My first fists member QSO on 12m was with N0BZM) seems such a long time ago...1998 as I remember.

Stan emailed later to add;

In reviewing my logs over the four years I found that I had worked 45 of the 50 states on 30 Meters and reviewing my QSL's I found I had cards from 42 of them. The five I hadn't worked were: Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Montana, West Virginia I had worked but didn't have QSL cards from: Alaska, Nevada, Wyoming In order to have a "Challenge" I decided I'd like to have cards from FISTS members in all the 50 states for my Worked All States - 30 Meters. So I undertook making QSO's in those which I hadn't worked a FISTS member. In a relatively short period I was able to work FISTS members in the states I was missing. The last one was a QSO with Corliss, AL1G in Anchorage, AK on August 2 at 2215 UTC on 10.119 MHz. The cards have been rolling in and when I get the cards from Alaska Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland and Wyoming I will have cards from FISTS members in all the States.

I'm impressed! I can see a supplementary activity for FISTS EU members in the future; a "Worked all US states on 30m" maybe...Thanks for the information Stan...

An interesting report and statistics from G3ZOD.

Hi Rob. Here is my Ladder entry for July.

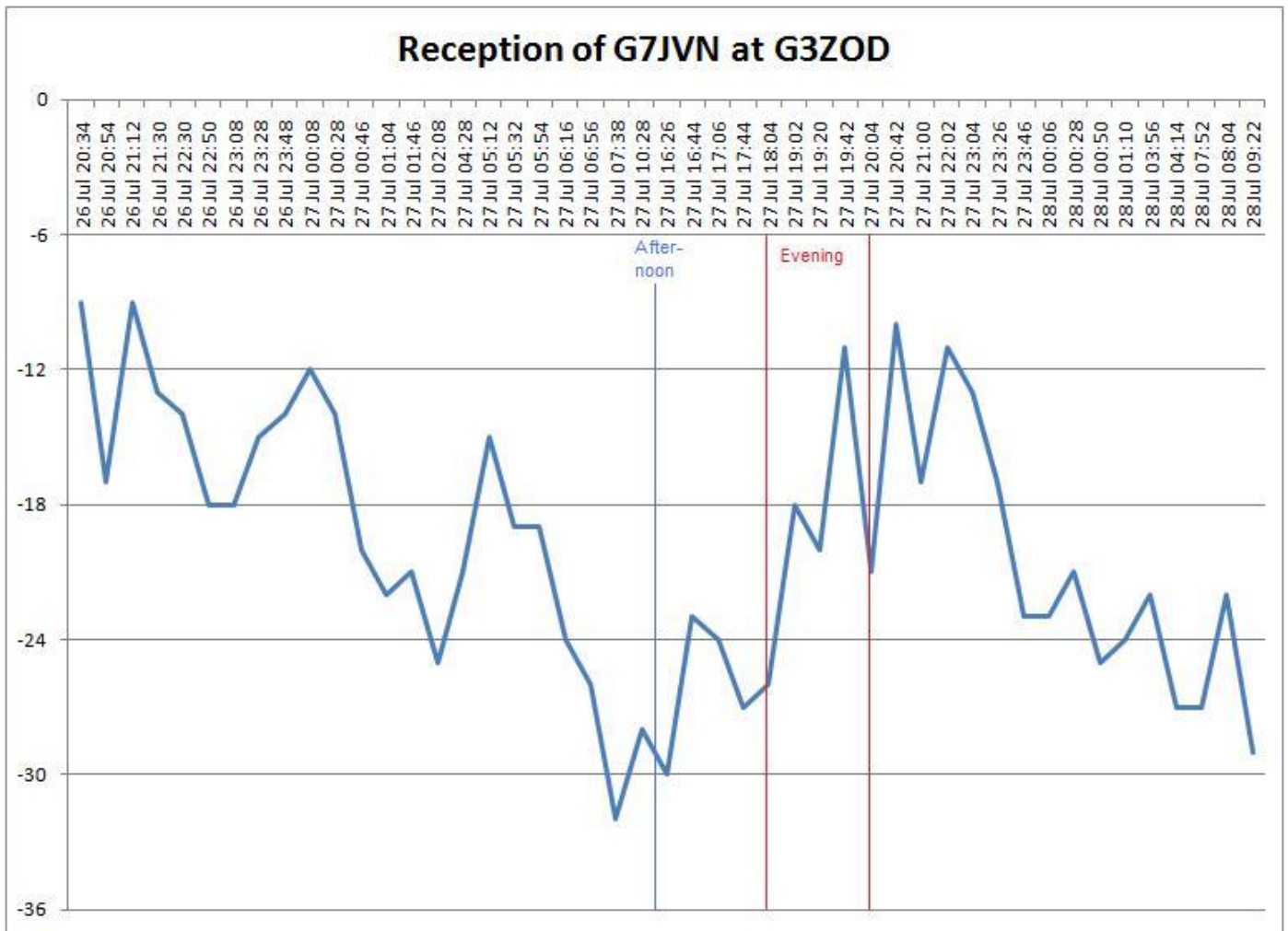
12th July: I was on holiday near Aberdyfi in Wales at a very nice QTH owned by George G3RJV, that comes complete with a low power station <http://www.celticpilgrim.com> (my XYL is very tolerant about radio!!). So, I was fortunate to be able to have a go as GW3ZOD.

In the afternoon session, I couldn't raise anyone at all. The evening session was more successful with three contacts. I chose to sign as just "GW3ZOD" rather than "GW3ZOD/A".

The reason is that the current ("lifetime") licence uses the words "*recommended*" and "*may*" with regard to using the suffixes /A /P /M /MM. I did ask Ofcom if the suffixes were in fact optional or mandatory, but they wouldn't commit to a reply - they told me that this is because their legal department does not allow them to "interpret" the meaning of the licence conditions. Anyhow, since Ofcom aren't enforcing the suffixes and it would be quite clear to anyone that I wasn't at home (due to the GW prefix), I decided not to bother with the /A (I did of course periodically send my location as required by the licence conditions).

26th July: Back home again as G3ZOD, I was only available for the evening session. I couldn't hear any activity at all for the first hour. I did get a reply to a CQ from Kev G4CMZ but unfortunately he was barely audible above my background noise level. Later on I did get a call from a non-member station but that was the only successful contact. (Also I did eventually hear one or two FISTS QSOs in progress but a bit too late.)

My impression is that the propagation improves somewhat about halfway through the evening session, i.e. 19:00 UTC (20:00 BST). I thought it would be interesting to look at some WSPR data to see if this is real or imagined. Fortunately one of the WSPR stations, G7JVN, has been on the air on 80m long enough for me to collect some information. He's located near Hastings at 206 miles (332 km) from me; this distance is very useful for me as many of the FISTS stations active during the Ladder are located in the South of England.



The vertical axis shows the signal strength in dB, so the higher the line, the stronger the signal.

The single vertical blue line shows where the afternoon Ladder session falls. It's a single line because I didn't actually receive G7JVN at all during this period.

The two vertical red lines show where the evening Ladder session falls.

Bearing in mind that this was a very limited experiment and so has to be taken with a fistful of salt, the results are nevertheless quite interesting. It's apparent that the afternoon Ladder session neatly coincides with the worst possible propagation conditions on 80m for me!!! Also, the evening session falls during a period of gradually improving propagation with an improvement of around 2 S-points over the two hours.

Note: the horizontal axis shows each individual spot, so is not a linear representation of time - the dip showing poor propagation period is in fact much longer than it looks. (I tried to persuade Excel 2007 to spread the spots out based on their time, but I couldn't figure out how to do it - any suggestions are welcome!)

73 de Graham (Gra) G3ZOD FISTS #8385

Thanks for your report and overview Gra, always gratefully received; so, any comments or suggestions from members who might be able to help?

From Bill. GOBAK who comments;

Hi Rob.

Once again I was very disappointed with my performance. I found the bands very poor especially on the 26th when I tried both sessions. I am experimenting with a mini loop antenna at the moment but so far no qso's with it. I am also still on with my Homebrew LCK transceiver and one day I am hoping to use it for the Ladder.

Best wishes Bill GOBAK 13262

Thanks for your report Bill. Hope that you get the loop aerial operational, and maybe an article on both the loop and LCK transceiver for Keynote in the future.

Some EUCW News

If you would please be kind enough to bring the following events to the attention of your members:.

tnx, 73. Paul HB9DST / AA1MI, EUCW Communications Manager for the Helvetia Telegraphy Club

1. 2009 Swiss HTC QRP Sprint

Dear QRP Friends, CW Fans und Contesters,

The HTC cordially invites you to participate in our annual mini-contest, which always takes place on the 2nd Saturday of September, thus this year on Saturday, September 12, 2009.

Key details:

- * Contest period: 13:00 to 18:59 UTC
- * The bands are 80m (3.520 - 3.570 MHz), 40m (7.020 - 7.040 MHz) and 20m (14.020 - 14.070 MHz)
- * Entry classes are:
 - VLP with max. 1W output
 - QRP with max. 5W output
 - QRO with more than 5W output

* The QSO exchange is: RST / Entry Class / QTH (Canton, Province, DOC, etc.) / Name
For example: 579 / QRP / ZH / Fritz

Electronic logs are encouraged but are not mandatory.

The full contest regulations, the contest log sheet and the summary sheet can be downloaded from our home page: www.htc.ch.

The log sheet as an Excel spreadsheet has been completely redesigned. The calculation of the score and the summary sheet are now fully automated. You begin with log sheet 1, and data such as name, call, etc. are carried over to the summary sheet.

Dear YLs, XYLs and OMs -- please try to participate and bring activity to the bands, even if only for a few points. Submitting a log is a matter of honor. I look forward to tabulating the scores.

Your Swiss HTC QRP Sprint Contest Manager,
Guido, HB9BQB

Thats all the information and reports for this month. Here are the ladder results for this year so far

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DECE	TOTALS
G4LHI	29	40	44	30	27	7	0						177
M5ABN	27	40	27	21	0	0	15						130
IK2RMZ7	12	20	0	43	10	0							92
G4CMZ	0	21	26	22	5	4	13						91
M0DRK	10	22	15	15	8	3	0						73
G0BAK	6	8	16	14	12	4	10						70
2E0TEK	18	20	14	0	0	0	0						52
G3ZOD	8	12	11	7	7	4	7						56
OH7QR	15	4	5	5	12	3	0						44
G8XGQ	2	10	0	0	0	0	0						12

Thats all from me for another month, I will remind you about the forthcoming

"FISTS STRAIGHT KEY WEEK"

Dates: 6th to the 12th of September 2009. This is the last activity of the year, so join in if you're able to....Lets hope that there'll be lots of activity on the bands

Full rules can be found in the last Keynote of 2008, or by visiting my unofficial site

[HERE](#)

Till next time, keep well, keep pounding the brass.

73.M0BP



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