

BRASSPOUNDER

June 2008



For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge

Welcome to the June edition.

Well well, wonders will never cease! I managed to spend a full four hours of operation during the ladder 22-6-08. I was pleased to hear and work various members who were and were not taking part in the ladder. 12 UK members in marginal condx, heard many more but not strong enough for a QSO. Unfortunate have missed Ken. G3SDW. Who had a power cut while we were about to make contact.

It's been nice to receive images of award winners within FISTS for the EUCW and MKW activities. I'm going to start this months postbag with Fred. G3VVP. Who sent in an excellent article for BP with images.

At risk of BP being withdrawn under the obscene publications act, I have decided to comply with a request from Robert MOBPT, Publisher, Editor-in-Chief and Senior Scribe of this journal, to produce a jpeg of

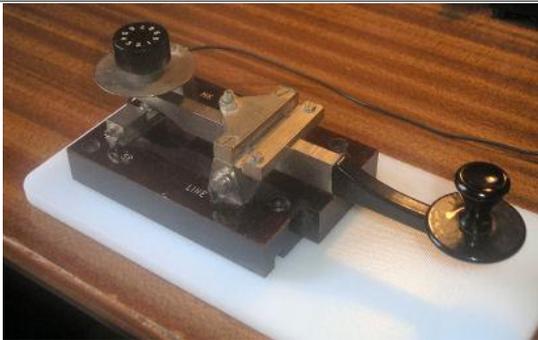
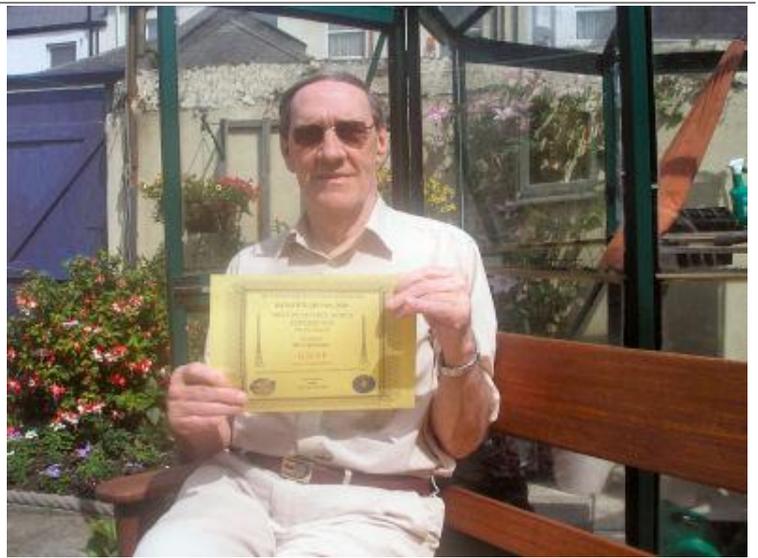
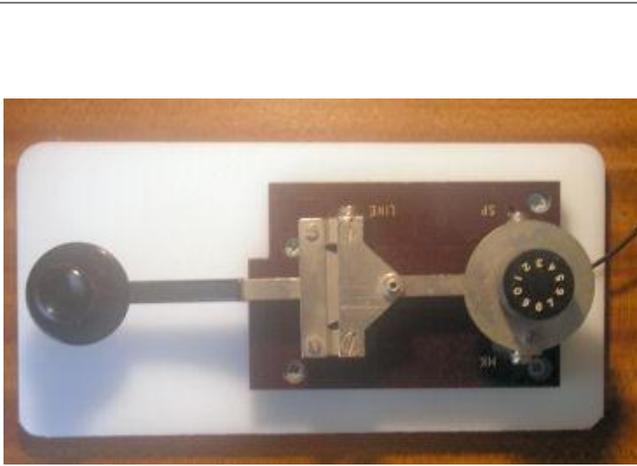
self holding recently awarded MRM Certificate (or part thereof) from EUCW QRS Party 2008. As this may be the final chance I would like to congratulate my fellow recipients of this award and invite them to join me in a 'penalty shoot-out' in 2009.

For the inquisitive amongst us here are a few images of the 'Franken-key' used throughout the month that I was activating GX0IPX. Not easily recognised in this naked state, it usually resides inside a grey box, surrounded by peripheral components and sitting on a large base. It is the inner workings of a long lever, leaf spring fulcrum NATO key, very similar to the famous Swedish Pump by Lennart Pettersson.

Given to me last December as just the keying mechanism on the moulded Bakelite base and, as you can see from the relative lengths, very prone to 'lifting' when keyed. A quick trip to the local Cook Shop, purchase of an anti-bacterial chopping board and 10 minutes with some hand tools produced a very stable key which is a joy to use and "bug free" of course. The material of these boards is very easy to work, makes excellent key bases, insulators or dipole centres or you can even cut it into strips for spreaders if you use open wire feeders. For a Fiver you can have a whole bag full of useful 'goodies' from just 1 board.

This key may not come with a 'Certificate of Authenticity' but it does have a it's own dated, and timed, Co-op Till receipt!. Begali, Vibroplex, Schurr..... eat your heart out!!.

73 all, have fun and pound brass!. Fred G3VVP Fists#5541



G3VVP with his "MRM" shared award and images of his "Franken-key" Used in EUCW QRS 2008 whilst very kindly activating FISTS club call GXØIPX. I hope the other recipients of the award will take up Fred on his challenge for the 2009 EUCW QRS!



I can inform you all that all three FISTS club stations, GXØIPX, MX5IPX and GX3ZQS will be on air during SKW (Straight Key Week) 2008. Many thanks must go to members G3JFS (GX0IPX) and G3VVP (MX5IPX) for volunteering their services with the calls.

Many thanks to Fred for "Volunteering" (Hi) his article and images for BP. The adaptation of the chopping board for amateur use in various guises is an excellent one!

Lets take a look at this months "Postbag" with general comments and band reports.

From Derek. M0DRK

Hi Robert, only a short month this month as we are off to Malta for a spot of relaxation. Many thanks to all stations that not only gave me points but also many very nice QSO's I had with them. Though I only

had half a month this time on the WARC Band Challenge, the new square from Martin IK2RMZ helped me along. Many thanks Martin.

73 for nw Derek M0DRK

From Peter G4LHI. With his report on the ladder activity.

Hello Robert,

I attach my June Activity Ladder claim, and what a great afternoon Sunday 22nd was and was so nice to work you Robert, thought I had missed you when the deep QSB took you out after you worked Bob and I called you, I was very disappointed, but what a nice surprise when you called me as I closed with Bryan with just a couple of minutes left to go for the end of session, many thanks for that mate. When we closed at 1608, Daryl, G0ANV called me, I think his clock must have stopped hi.

With Sunday 8 th score added, my total claim for June is 37 points for 20 QSO's. I was very pleased to find more members joining in, especially for the second Sunday and to meet members I had not worked for some time, perhaps it was the wx in our favour and too wet to be on the garden, but very many thanks guys for your support and hope it rains again on the two Sundays in July if we are going to get a nice lot of activity again.

That's my Ladder lot for now and soon be time for the report on June WARC Band challenge again, bands been fairly good and hope to put a good claim in.

73 & many thanks to all. Peter G4LHI # 2219

Always a pleasure to call in on you Peter. Could hear G0ANV, but very weak with me. As you'll have seen with my earlier comments regarding the general activity on the 22nd, it was gratifying to hear so many members active.

From Stan. K4UK

An interesting month with 15 new multipliers. Plus interesting rag chews with two Swedish amateurs: Gunnar, SM4DDE on 30 Meters from home shack and with Hans, SM0IMJ on 17 Meters while mobile on my way home from the golf course. Unfortunately neither of them are FISTS members. We have had Hakan Boman and his family visiting us since June 19 and they will be returning to Sweden on July 10. Hakan had visited us 3 summers while he was a teenager. We attended his wedding to Sofia Hallen on July 24, 1999 in Vastra Amtervik, Sweden. We attended the festivities after the wedding at Sillegarden which is 35 miles north of Karlstad, where I operated SM / K4UK. They now have two daughters who have not yet learned to speak English. - Hi ! Quite appropriate to have QSO's with Swedish stations while we had visitors from Sweden.

73, Stan - K4UK

[From Peter. G4LHI. With his summary of WARC Operation during June.](#)

Hello Robert,

A very interesting month, we have had two of our regular members in mobile or portable locations in nice new squares. Many thanks Erkki, OH7QR and Bob, G6GUN. Bob also hopes to be in two more squares in bonny Scotland & Erkki in Finland during July. Again I found 4 new members amongst the 15 new locators I was so pleased to find during June. Very many thanks to all members and non members that again made this a very interesting and enjoyable month and very nice to keep finding new members joining in the fun, perhaps with a little gentle persuasion we may even have got a few of the non members to join the Fists Club?

A brief summary of my log for June Robert. 121 QSO's for 172 points and 15 multies.

My 15 multies for June are: - ZP6CW, Doug, GG14: N4QR, Bob, EM95: K4AHO, Jim, EL98: DJ3KU, Wolf, JO31: PA0FAW, Fred, JO11: F5VLT, Dave, JN13: OZ1EUO, LEIF, JO46: W8PBO, Art, EM98: WA3HIC, James, FM19: K3MQ, Bob, FM28: KD0V, Merlin, EN34: W1PID, Jim, FN43: DL9OE, Ray, JN47: OH7QR/P, Erkki, KP34 and KP44 (mni tnx mate)

Very many thanks to the members, and also non members, that worked me for the maximum of four QSO's again this month, very much appreciated & certainly helps the scoring. Looking forward to finding Bob and Erkki in their travels again during July, safe driving guys and many thanks in anticipation of some new multies.

73 until the next time & many thanks to all. Peter G4LHI # 2219 IO92

As ever Peter, many thanks for a concise monthly round up of your activities on the WARC's. Definitely, the WARC bands have been buoyant during June.

From Erkki. OH7QR.

Hello Robert,

Please find attached my ladder and warc band logs. On 22th of June a contest was interfering the ladder. I heard you on 14058 but lost you in QRM, sorry. The activity on warc bands was good. Bob G6GUN was driving /M in many locators. I could catch him in JO00, IO81 and IO86. Well done Bob! I myself activated squares KP34 and KP44 on 28th of June. I had the usual company during the trip: G4LHI, G6GUN and IK2RMZ and I was very pleased to catch also Tony G8XGQ.

I will stay on the island of Hailuoto (IOTA EU-184) from 7th to 9th of July. There I'll activate locators KP25 and KP24. The latitude 65 North goes via the island and it is easy to work from both squares. I'll be on the air in the evening mostly on 10.118 / 10.128 kHz. 73. Erkki. OH7QR

As you will read this, Erkki of course will have finished his /p operation. I did post the information on the FISTS NG 3-7-08. So I hope many of you worked him during his short period of operation. Thanks for your news and comments Erkki. Did hear you on the 22nd but not enough to QSO. Look forward to the next time.

Lets take a look at some more images of members with their awards.



Here's an image of award recipient Tony. G8XGQ. Tony, as many of you will know is a long time supporter of FISTS activities. He is pictured with his award for his efforts in MKW 2008. Tony emailed to say how disappointed he was to hear that I'd decided to end MKW because of lack of interest. He takes an active part in activities in within FISTS and hopes that the Activity ladder and WARC Challenge will remain. For the present both activities will remain, and I plan to introduce another activity to replace MKW. So expect something new in March 2009! Thanks for the image Tony! Glad you're pleased with your award.

Pictured is Rosel Dach. DL2FCA who represented AGCW in the EUCW/FISTS QRS Party 2008. Rosel was also a recipient of a MRM shared award. Rosel commented "It makes me proud and happy to receive the MRM Shared award, I'm looking forward to next year, if my family situation allows me to, I'll be QRV again in the EUCW/FISTS QRS party 2009!"



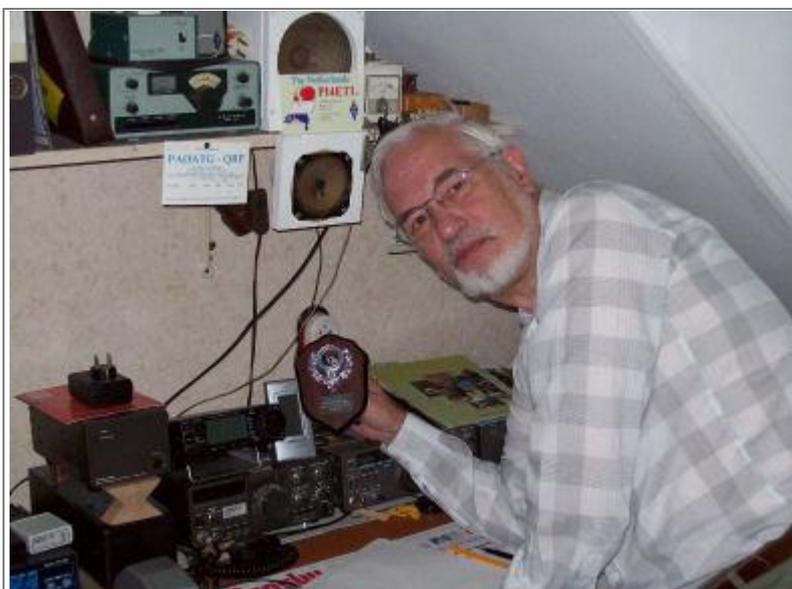


Pictured here on the left is Robi. HB9DEO. The third of the MRM Shared award recipients. Robi represented HTC during EUCW Week.

Also pictured with his award is Paul. HB9DST. Paul operated HB9HTC (Helvetia Telegraphy Club) in the Class B section during EUCW Week.

Congratulations to you both!

Adriaan. PAØATG (Benelux QRP) EUCW 2008 Class B (QRP) Winner in his shack with some of the QRP equipment used. On the left is the Icom IC-703 on top of the TS-120V, both used for contest work. The IC-703 is also used for PSK. On the shelf is an old Heathkit HW-8 used for the AGCW HOT Party. He tells me that not in the picture are his six hand keys and one microphone (Hi).





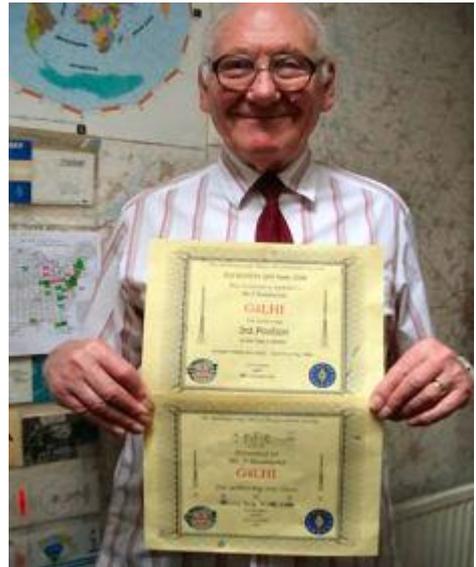
Martin. IK2RMZ in his shack pictured with his awards.

Winner: MKW 2008.

Runner up: EUCW QRS 2008.

Congratulations to Martin for his efforts.

G4LHI with awards earned for his efforts in both EUCW/FISTS QRS Party 2008. And MKW 2008.



Some EUCW News, which of course FISTS are a member of.

I've heard from Paul. HB9DST with information on a short activity happening in July from HB9.

Hello Rob,

If you think it is appropriate, would you please announce the annual Swiss National Mountain Day contest to members of The FISTS club? Although only HB9 stations can participate for awards, we are certainly interested in getting points from as many stations as possible. Also, it's a good opportunity to work HB9 stations in CW, many of whom will be working QRP.

Because this is an 80m contest, we most frequently make contacts with stations in neighbouring countries, but others a bit further out might want to listen to the band to see if they hear any of us.

tnx, 73 Paul HB9DST / AA1MI Helevetia Telegraphy Club
HB9HTC/MB9HTC

Event: Swiss National Mountain Day

Date: Sunday, 20 July 2008 (third Sunday in July)

Time: 0600 - 0959 UTC (0800 - 1159 HB Time)

Frequencies: 3510 to 3560 kHz

Mode: CW (A1A)

Exchange for non-NMD stations: signal report (RST)

Full rules in English can be found at

http://www.uska.ch/contest/hf/reglement_2006_e.pdf

And some news from the Sardinia QRP Club.

Hi all,

Sardinia QRP Club Team will be operating on July 19th from Capo Carbonara Lighthouse.

Times 20.00 to to 22 UTC as IQ0QP.

Modes CW/SSB/AM (QRP)

Frequencies : 3560, 3579,3690, 7030, 7040, 7090

Rigs : Elecraft KX1, Yaesu FT817, Rock Mite 40.

Call :IQØQP

72and 73 de

Franco ISØVSU

ARSQC President.

The following is an extract from this weekend's WIA News

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS --- FISTS CLUB DOWN UNDER

<http://fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>

<http://www.fistsdownunder.org>

The FISTS Down Under CW Club are changing the start time of their recently formed net. As from 9th July 2008 the net will start at 1900 EST, and will run for a minimum of one hour. In the first one, held on 18 June, there were seven participants, plus NCS. In the second session six OP's took part; overall about equal ZL and VK. An interesting and challenging mixture of SSB and CW was used on NCS frequency, CW

elsewhere. Operators are requested to check in on SSB unless conditions dictate CW or (as applied to one old hand) you cannot remember where the mike is; This is being done to encourage nervous newcomers to join the net. Once paired off participants can go for their lives on the key. The net is held every Wednesday at 1900EST with NCS on 3546 kHz. Most important: all are welcome to join this net; members and non members; old hands and new fingers; even those who do not currently use CW are welcome to call in for a brief chat during quiet periods. (David VK3FGE)

Hope you'll listen/call in. FISTS ZL/VK members I'm sure would be pleased to hear/work you!

Lets look at the monthly tables

LADDERTOTALS2008												
CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	NOV	DECE	TOTALS
G6GUN	22	34	43	37	43	40						219
G4LHI	30	25	37	32	36	37						197
IK2RMZ	15	33	18	24	9	17						116
OH7QR	14	27	7	14	14	21						97
MODRK	16	10	18	15	17	10						86
G8XGQ	16	19	8	0	16	13						72
MOJRK	24	13	8	0	0	0						45
2E0TEK	0	0	0	0	21	0						21
G0MRHO		0	9	0	0	0						9

G6GUN is producing a marvellous effort each month to hold G4LHI at bay. With the activity halfway through the year Bob has broken the "200" Points barrier, with Peter close behind. IK2RMZ, in third place has broken the "100" Points barrier with OH7QR close behind at 97 points.

WARC CALL	TOTAL 2008												TOTAL	MULTI	MASTER	PWR
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC				
G4LHI	201	182	152	166	231	172							1104	70	77280	QRO
IK2RMZ	137	182	115	201	325	158							1118	63	70434	QRO
K4UK	23	83	42	81	92	92							413	71	29323	QRO
G6GUN	34	38	61	103	99	89							424	35	14840	QRO
OH7QR	87	57	101	66	87	59							457	16	7312	QRO
W4YE	32	48	46	15	46	14							201	21	4221	QRO
MØDRK	20	33	45	31	52	33							214	16	3424	QRO
G8XGQ	14	24	11	16	26	27							118	12	1416	QRO
KA3NZR	0	1	26	2	12	28							69	18	1242	MIX
W4FCR ©	0	11	0	14	8	9							42	14	588	QRO
DL1GBZ/DP6M	0	0	117	0	21	18							156	3	468	QRO
2E0TEK	0	0	0	0	44	0							44	7	308	QRO
K4ORD	3	13	9	7	0	0							32	8	256	QRP
G0XAH	0	0	33	0	0	0							33	4	132	QRO
PA3AFF	0	0	0	0	1	0							1	1	1	QRP

Again, G4LHI is battling with IK2RMZ for the top spot. With K4UK and G6GUN well placed to challenge each other for third place as the year moves on.

"SOAPBOX" From MØBPT.

After reading many prophecies from the gloom and doom brigade on the FISTS NG regarding the demise of the membership and activity from FISTS members. (I cant comment on other chapters of FISTS) Here in FISTS EU 80m seemed to be well populated with FISTS members when I was active on the 22nd. I'm sure that some will be reading this and thinking that the reason folk were on was because of the ladder activity. Acceptable thought, but more were on who do not enter the ladder, or any other activity for that matter. So this leads me to ask the question. "Why brave poor conditions to come on air for a chat with other members if that were the case?"

That's about it for another month. Thanks to all who sent images, articles, band reports for inclusion. Making BP June a "Bumper Edition". Look forward to hearing from you with your reports/articles/soapbox items for the July edition.

Till Next Time;

"KEEP BASHING THE BRASS"

73. MØBPT



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