

# BRASSPOUNDER

*March 2007*



*For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge*

Welcome to the March edition.

It's been very pleasing to hear reports that more members are being heard on air during the activities. I'm thanking Paul, M0BMN. For finding space within the new format Keynote to publicise the activity calendar for 2007. Which is why (I'm assuming) more members are aware of what's going on. I'm hoping that perhaps they'll submit a log in the future.

Something else that is very pleasing, and certainly unusual I would imagine, is the Husband and Wife team now both active within the society! John, GM4WZL has joined Janet MM3WZL this month in the activities. Janet is already busy in the QRS Activity, and not to be outdone, John has joined the activity ladder this month, and put in a good score! Good to have you both on board and I'm wondering if you both are going to be a formidable team during the coming months!

Here's a few words from John giving a little history of their entry into amateur radio.

I started to learn for the RAE in 1982 with Janet supporting me. We both then got interested in radio! When it was time to sit our city and guilds exam in 1983 Janet could not attend. I was successful and received the call GM1AVV. When I started to learn CW, Janet helped me again. In 1984 I passed the 12wpm Morse Code test and received the call GM4WZL.

I had a Stroke in 1989 and was off the air for about 10 years so Janet decided not to sit the old RAE. In 2005, an old friend, Len, GM0ONX came to see how I was and he talked me in to setting up my radios that had been boxed for all this time. After setting the station back up, I had to start to learn CW again.

One day on 40 metres, I was calling CQ, and Peter G4LHI came back to my call. That was one of my first QSO's in 10 years. Peter sent me an email and that was how I got

to hear about the FISTS CW club. The boys and girls in the society have been very good and understanding.

March 2006 saw Janet sit her foundation exam and she passed with flying colours, and managed to get the MM3WZL Call. We have had good fun since Janet passed her exam, my old radio friends get mixed up with us now. I was in QSO one day and a friend came on to let me know that there was a pirate station in the Galston area using my call! Now they are trying to work the two of us at the same time! Janet has entered and is enjoying the post code competition, and of course the DX she's working!  
Enclosed a couple of images of ourselves.

I hope this is of interest to you and the club members.



Thanks to John and Janet for sharing their passage into amateur radio, and membership of the society with us. As I'm aware, they are the only Husband and Wife team who are active within our society, certainly within the activity side!..Unless of course...You know differently!!

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I've received news from EUCW Fraternizing Party organiser, Werner, DK7VW. Also, Martin, IK2RMZ informed me, regarding a change of dates for the event. I've published the information below for folk to read.

Dear friends and CW fellows,

you are invited to join the

EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party

which has got a new date and new rules.

Until 2006 the FP was held on the third weekend of November. This caused a lot of trouble and complaints by the participants because the QSO party interfered with the LZ DX Contest and the INORC contest. Finally we got a request from IARU Region 1 officials because they are planning a major multinational contest on this weekend.

It took some time to find a new date for the FP which would not interfere with other contests. After many talks, telephone calls and emails (TNX IK2RMZ) we found a solution that should work well for all.

From 2007 the EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party will take place on the second weekend in May. The schedule of operation was chosen in a way that there is no overlapping with other contests (CQ-M, FISTS Spring Sprint), except of one hour on Saturday where the FP meets the SL-Contest. But the latter one seems to be a minor national event and - honestly spoken - it's just impossible to find a place without any coincidence with other contests.

Looking for a new date for the FP we decided to revise the rules aiming to make this event more attractive and interesting and to improve the equal opportunities for all participants.

Here are the main changes:

1. There are just two parts of the FP (part I on Saturday, part II on Sunday).
2. The FP takes place on five bands now (80,40,20,15,10). In the month

of May conditions should allow high band propagation. This should make the FP more interesting for stations "on the edge" of Europe respectively to DX stations (see below).

3. The Party is now open for participants from all over the world. Members of associated CW clubs (CWAS, GACW, QRP-ARCI) will count as multipliers.

4. The exchange was slightly simplified.

You will find the complete rules of the EUCW FP further down this message.

You are encouraged to spread this news wherever it should be of interest (club news sheets, bulletins, magazines and of course among your CW friends). Your help to promote and make known this event is very appreciated.

I look forward to receive many of your logs after the EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party in May 2007.

73 cwfe  
Joe DK7VW

EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party  
CONTEST RULES

DATE: Second weekend of May (May 12/13, 2007)

TIMES: Saturday: 10:00 - 12:00 UTC

Sunday: 18:00 - 20:00 UTC

BANDS: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 mtrs

preferred segments:

3530-3550 kHz, 7015-7035 kHz, 14030-14050 kHz,

21030-21050 kHz, 28030-28050 kHz

IARU-Region-1 band plans must be observed (contest free segments).

Violations will entail a disqualification.

PARTICIPANTS: All amateur radio stations and SWL's

CLASSES: A: members of EUCW clubs - QRP Power Output 5W maximum

B: members of EUCW clubs - LOW POWER Power Output 100W maximum

C: non members - QRP Power Output 5W maximum

D: non members - LOW POWER Power Output 100W maximum

E: SWL

CALL: CQ EUCW TEST

EXCHANGE: Class A and B: RST/Name/Club/Membership no.

Class C and D: RST/Name/NM

Class E logs info of both stations

SCORING: Classes A, B, C, D: 1 Pt per QSO

Class E: 3 Pts for a complete info set.

Stations may be logged once per day and band.

MULTIPLIERS: 1 multiplier point for each EUCW club (also associated EUCW clubs) per day and band. A participant may represent only one EUCW club during the complete party.

LOGS: Electronic logs (ADIF, ASCII, Excel, Cabriollo, STF file) via email preferred. Cover sheet: Call sign, Name, Address, Class, Club, [Email], Station Setup; Summary sheet with total score. Log sheet must contain: Date, UTC, Band,

Call sign, Exchange, Points, Multi

Send log to: [eucwfp\(at\)agcw.de](mailto:eucwfp(at)agcw.de)

Send paper logs to:

Werner 'Joe' Jochem, DK7VW

Wendelsborn 34

D-66606 St.Wendel

GERMANY

Deadline: June, 30.

CLUB SCORE: Places 1 to 10 in each class count 10 to 1 points. For each club and class a maximum of 4 participants are eligible. The club with the highest summary score will receive a special certificate.

AWARDS: Places 1 - 3 of each class.

EUCW Clubs: AGCW-DL, BQC, BTC, CFT, CTC, CTCW, EACW, EA-QRP-C, EHSC, FISTS, FOC, G-QRP, GTC, HACWG, HCC, HSC, HTC, INORC, IS QRP, I-QRP, ITC, LZCWC, MCWG, OE-CW-G, OHTC, OK-QRP, RTC, SCAG, SHSC, RU-QRP, SPCWC, UCWC, UFT, U-QRQ-C, VHSC, YL-CW-G, 3A-CWG, 9A-CWG

associated: CWAS, GACW, QRP-ARCI

See also <http://www.agcw.de/eucw/eucw.html> for a comprehensive up-to-date list.

Werner 'Joe' Jochem - DK7VW [N7VW]

Wendelsborn 34

66606 St.Wendel - GERMANY

affiliated to:

AGCW-DL - ARRL - BCC - DARC - DIG - DL-QRP-AG

FISTS - FOC - G-QRP - HSC - REF - RTC

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Regarding EUCW.

**DON'T FORGET THE FISTS SPONSORED  
EUCW QRS PARTY!**

DATES/TIMES: From Monday 23rd April 2007, 0001 UTC, to Friday 27th April 2007, 2359 UTC.

Full rules can be found;

[Here:](#) or [Here:](#)

The event has received publicity in Practical Wireless. <http://www.pwpublishing.co.uk/>  
I thank Donna Vincent from the PW team for finding space. So I'm hoping that many CW users will come on air.

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Lets take a look at this months postbag.

Firstly from Janet, MM3WZL Regarding the QRS Activity.

Not to good this month, the bands were in poor condition, heard a lot of stations call me but just couldn't get them out of the noise, had a long qso with a new station, IK2TYP. It was his first qso on cw he was saying so I kept it going as long as I could and he thanked me for that. He got his licence in march 2006 the same as me.

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From Peter G4LHI regarding the QRS activity.

Very many more members about for this month, I had difficulty in choosing the best two out of four sessions, all four were almost identical (in QSO's) apart from a couple of duplicated ones so it certainly indicated more members about, pity we have to choose because those not on my claim do not get mentioned in dispatches unless of course they also put a log in as you have suggested. In any event it was certainly well supported this month.

Peter, M5ABN has said exactly the same thing with his QRS report. This is good news, as I've commented earlier, it does show that the members are on air. For the members who are working towards an award, it is an ideal opportunity, to meet members and crunch some numbers towards your goal. And for newcomers to the society and mode, here's your chance to improve your skills whilst meeting members. And for our more seasoned veterans, here you can pass your on skills to the next generation of CW enthusiasts to continue the preservation of the mode.

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Welcome to Chris, M0JRQ, who has joined the QRS activity this month. Chris was one of many throughout the month who managed to work GX0IPX (FISTS#1). Chris has also submitted his first log for the ladder event, he tells me that he uses power levels of between 5w and 20w and is enjoying both activities. So listen out for Chris

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From Peter, G4LHI. Regarding the ladder.

I find that 80m & the evening session seems to be the most popular. I usually have a listen during the afternoons & give points to those that can't make the evening, but don't get enough QSO's usually to add to my claim. Worked three new members (to me) during the two claimed periods. Derek, G0PPI. Mike, G4MFN. & Mick, MI5MTC. Many thanks & also many thanks to all that gave me the points. Seemed to be very much more activity again this Sunday

I have just received my "2 Million Sticker" from Dennis for the Millionaire Award I obtained in May 2006. It sounds very hard to achieve but when you read the rules & see the five figure membership numbers now, it soon adds up, I'm sure a lot of our members could claim if they just add up their members numbers worked since 1 Jan 2006.

Congratulations Peter. This does show that these feats can be achieved. Why not take Peter's advice and do a count of members worked.....You may have a pleasant surprise!

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I've been chatting to Goeran, SM0PMJ #10899 via email these past few days, and I'm pleased to let you know that he is going to be operational on 30m listening for members, and he tells me that he'll be pleased to exchange grid information with FISTS op's. Goeran is working towards his Silver Certificate, he tells me that he is; " A retired Senior State Geologist, age 69, running TS-870S to an INV VEE always on 30m band" He has sent an image of himself and an image of his lovely QTH in Vallentuna, Sweden.



Thanks for the information Goeran. I'm sure they guys will be happy to exchange numbers with you on 30m to help with your Silver award. And I know they'll be pleased to receive your grid square in return.

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Some comments from participants regarding WARC band condx during March. Firstly, from Stan K4UK with news about another WARC activity that's active during April. Read on;

Robert:

Attached is my log for March and my Summary to date.

We visited Florida from March 2 to March 12. I only made 2 WARC

band contacts from Florida running my K2 into a 20 Meter dipole strung between two palm trees up about 10 feet.

Also was not active again here at home until the 15th. I did manage to find 4 new grid squares.

The most exciting one being Doug, ZP6CW on 30 Meters in GG14.

Don't know whether you are aware of the NAQCC ( North American QRP CW Club ) challenge for the month of April. The write up from their Web Site is:

**QUOTE**

Each month the NAQCC will have at least one challenge in which we challenge the members to accomplish a goal that we set forth for them. Each challenge will be somewhat different from all the others. The primary goal of the challenges is to increase CW and QRP activity so we can help preserve Morse Code on the bands and show that it is still a very viable, useful, and efficient mode of operation. All challenge QSO's must be 2X CW and you must be running QRP power. The stations you work can be using any power.

1. CHALLENGE: Our April challenge is designed with your survey input in mind. You asked for more activities on the WARC bands, so here is the WARC Band Challenge. Make as many QSO's as you can on the 30, 17, and 12 meter bands during the month. A certificate will be available for 52 cents postage to the following. The one making the most QSO's, the one working the most states, and the one working the most DX entities. To earn a Participation Award point toward the free FISTS membership, all you need do is make one WARC band QSO and report your result to us. You asked for it, now here's your chance to do what you wanted.

**UNQUOTE**

I'm sure members of NAQCC will be happy to make contacts with folks outside of North America.

The web site is: <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/>

Thanks to Stan for the information, hopefully, you'll be able to hear NAQCC members during April.

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And from Peter, G4LHI who comments on the band condx during March.

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim for March WARC Band Challenge.

Been a very interesting month, propagation in & out & if you were in at the right time you were very lucky to get some good DX. I was lucky on a couple of occasions & one time worked Japan in PM95 on 17 metres, not a Fists member unfortunately but not bad on my 30 metre wire dipole & 80 watts. My other DX non Fists members were VK3IM, 5B4AHL, J5BI, & ZL4CFT, for the valued one point.

I did just manage a very tough one with David, VK3DBD early one morning & again many thanks to those guys that are always lurking on the bands to give me QSO's & keep the bands open & alive.

My 4 new locator squares obtained this month were very welcome from John, WB4MED 10516 (EL96) Fran, EA1APA 2818 (IN53) Goeran, SM0PMJ 10899 (JO99) & Richard, F5VJD 4870 (IN98)

Thanks for your report Peter, I see that, if you've read my earlier comments regarding Goeran, SM0PMJ. He's already become active on the WARC frequencies.

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Also heard from Erkki, OH7QR#8318. Telling me he put a "Sprint" on during the later part of the month and was pleased to work 9H3LE/G4NBI#2297 on the last day of March, and pleased to hook up with Peter, G4LHI for as 48 minute chat!

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Martin, IK2RMZ was pleased to work YN4SU (EK71) in Nicaragua on 17m with 5w during March! very nice QRP QSO Martin!

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On to the results of MKW 2007. Frankly, the event had a poor turn out, but I thank the stalwart members who came on air to support the activity.

CALL	POINTS
G4LHI	768
M5ABN	66
2E0TEK	40
OH7QR	20

Incidentally, for you number crunchers amongst us. Erkki OH7QR informed that the QSO he had with Peter, G4LHI was the 100th since the 8th of November 2001.(Every one a pleasure he tells me) They've spent 1559 minutes chatting during the 100 QSO's. The longest lasted 62 minutes and 9 lasted over 30 minutes! The question to be asked is; can this be beaten? This 62 minute QSO has to be a record of some sort between FISTS Members!...Unless of course, you know differently!

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Lets look at this months tables. Starting with the WARC Challenge.

WARC CALL	Totals2007			TOTAL	MULTI	MASTER	PWR									
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC				
F2YT	431	575	0										1006	70	70420	QRO
G4LHI	149	131	119										399	20	7980	QRO
K4UK	55	99	30										184	37	6808	QRP
IK2RMZ	106	73	91										270	23	6210	QRO
OH7QR	59	68	115										242	22	5324	QRO
W4YE	26	28	14										68	7	476	QRO
K4ORD	4	20	21										45	9	405	QRP
KA3NZR	5	24	7										36	6	216	MIXED
2E0TEK	16	0	23										39	4	156	QRO
W4FCR©	0	2	0										2	1	2	QRO

tan, K4UK has put in an excellent entry running QRP with his K2 for March. Also G4LHI, IK2RMZ and OH7QR have put in good results in the QRO section. Well done to all who have persevered through mediocre conditions during March.

On to the Activity Ladder table.

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
M5ABN	35	46	44										125
G4LHI	33	40	47										120
G6GUN	26	30	32										88
IK2RMZ	4	11	20										35
OH7QR	14	4	16										34
M0DRK	13	8	10										31
2E0TEK	8	0	14										22
GM4WZL	0	0	21										21
2E0AYQ	9	0	10										19
G8XGQ	6	0	0										6
PA1SOP	6	0	0										6
M0JRQ	0	0	4										4

M5ABN is still maintaining his lead over G4LHI, but not a lot separates them. Welcome to GM4WZL and M0JRQ who've joined the ladder this month.

Finally, the QRS Activity.

Call	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	totals	Class	
G4LHI	26	26	27										79	4	QRO
M5ABN	23	17	30										70	4	QRO
M0CDL	6	17	0										23	1	QRP
MM3WZL0	13		8										21	2	QRP+
M0JRQ	0	0	9										9	3	MIXED
G8XGQ	4	0	0										4	3	MIXED
2E0AYQ	2	0	0										2	1	QRP

Just four logs received this month. The two Peter's, M5ABN and G4LHI are battling it out in the QRO section, with M0CDL and MM3WZL standing firm in their chosen

categories. Again, welcome to M0JRQ who joins the activity this month in the mixed power category. Glad to have you on board Chris, lets hope our paths cross on air during 2007.

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That's about it from me for this month. Always pleased to hear from you with your reports/observation etc.

73 to you all.

KEEP BASHING THE BRASS!!



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