

# BRASSPOUNDER

March 2009

Greetings once again from the stable of MOBPT

As I've been preparing (A rather late) BP; I've received images and reports from members with news of their activities during March, which I'm always happy to have for inclusion in BP.

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Firstly I must remind you of the forthcoming FISTS Sponsored EUCW QRS Party which starts on the 27th of April 2009 through to the 1st of May 2009. Full rules can be found [HERE](#) or in the winter 2008 edition of KEYNOTE.

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I'm looking very carefully at the support of the WARC Challenge 2009, and am considering an early conclusion to the activity. i.e. June 2009. making it a six month "sprint" In effect. With awards at the end of the said period of activity.

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As you may remember, I asked for comments on the origin of shortened numbers in the previous edition of BP. I've received replies on the subject from members.

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Peter. G3JFS emailed to say;

Robert: Reference your request below:

"Gra's comments on the abbreviated 2009 to "2TT9" had me thinking that quite a few of the OT's and OOT's (Old timers and old old timers) Used to use this amongst themselves and still do so today to a huge extent! (Would we consider the term to be syncopated morse?) I'd be interested to hear about the origin of this, as would many others no doubt! If anyone knows, compose an article for inclusion in either KEYNOTE or BP. I used to listen to the amateurs using this in my HF receiving station days whilst trying to brush up on my CW, wondering "What the hell are they sending?"

Here is a list of Morse Code so-called 'Abbreviated' or 'Cut' numbers:

1 = A      6 = 6

2 = U      7 = B

3 = V      8 = D

4 = 4      9 = N

5 = E      0 = T

**N.B.** There are several variations of this list by different users. This is the one I remember from many years ago.

Although I have no idea of the origin it is obvious cut numbers were designed to speed up the sending of number groups when they would not be confused with letters. The ones in regular use on the ham bands are 0=T, 9=N and 1=A and some multimode programs like MixW have an option to use these numbers by default. It is a good idea to use 9=N and 0=T but for everyday use forget about 1=A which will confuse many operators.

Strictly speaking a Zero should be sent as a long dash i.e. daaah rather than dah but with the widespread use of electronic keys this is rarely heard nowadays. When I was first licensed the long dash was frequently used but I think N=9 crept in sometime later. A=1 is a more modern addition and can be heard during major contests by the serious contenders trying to save a few seconds on each contact.

On the subject of ridiculous call signs HA130HALLO was to celebrate 130 years since the introduction of the telephone into Hungary. Another ridiculous 10 letter call I worked recently was 9A48IFATCA. Can anyone beat that?

73 Peter, G3JFS

Thanks for the information Peter. I've yet to hear one of these long callsigns... I do hope they do not become commonplace, interesting but nevertheless needless...What happened to the concise QSL card explaining what the special event was about?

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From Fred. G3VVP with his views on "Cut numbers"

Hi Robert,

Nice to see you back in print. Hope the move went smoothly and you are nicely settled with lots of aerial space.

The origin of sigs like 2TT9 is a result of partial use of a system referred to as 'cut numbers'. The full cut for 2009 would be sent as UTTN. The system was derived for efficiency when

sending large groups of numeric data. Each number had all the dashes except 1 removed in order to shorten it. Didn't work too well with 4,5 or 6 of course but the result looks like this.

1 .- A

2 ..- U

3 ...- V

4 ....- 4

5 . E

6 -.... 6

7 -... B

8 -.. D

9 -. N

0 - T

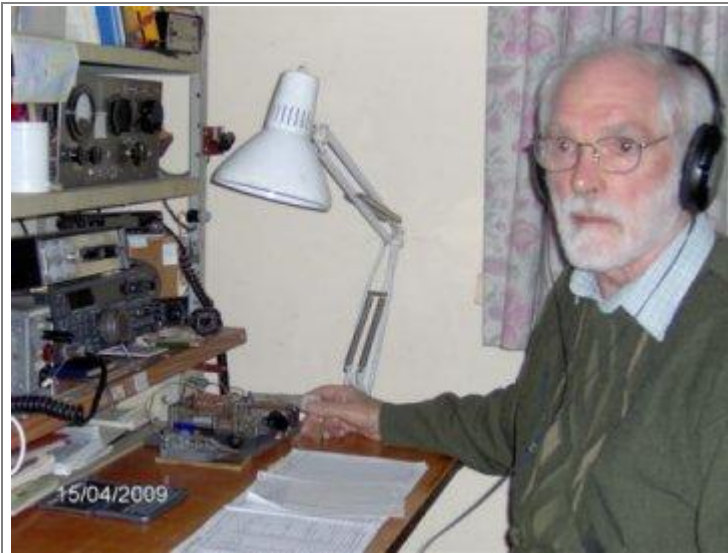
It's just one of those things that not all Hams are familiar with, a little like R used as a decimal point in data like 3r558 MHz. That's my 2p worth anyhow so, if you can make use and spread a little wisdom ok. Very pleased to see the EYAW went so well, keep up the good work.

73, Fred G3VVP

Thanks for your views on the subject Fred, which concur with G3JFS. I'd be interested to hear of any other views from members on the subject before closing the subject. Your kind comments regarding EYAW are well received, I certainly hope that in 2010, it will be as popular with the membership....

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Lets take a look at images received from members, from G3HAL; who, as you may remember managed third place overall in EYAW 2009. Always a pleasure to get a look at the face behind the key. So for those who've worked Pol; here he is at his operating position at G3HAL.



Here is a pic of the operating position at G3HAL and the operator. Please note the three Morse keys; straight, J36 (the US Signal Corps version of the standard Vibroplex) and a homebrew Accukeyer. The rig is a TS450SAT , optimised for CW with 500Hz filters in both IFs-very single signal. I'm often on 3558 kHz after 2100 clock time and happy to work any FISTS members, whatever their speed. So I hope to add more call signs to my Gold score.

Vy 73 PoI G3HAL 8367

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Lets take a look at this months reports from members..

Firstly from Peter. M5ABN

Hi Rob,

Attached is my Ladder Log for March. Band conditions still remain poor, but managed to catch several new members as well as the regulars.

I had a real struggle on the first session on the 8th, QRN/QSB made it very tough going. Missed the afternoon on 22nd but managed to get the two hours in the evening. Having the choice of four 2 hour slots certainly helps when you have to try and keep the XYL happy Hi.

Look forward to next month's activity ladder,

Pete M5 ABN #6423

Always goo to hear from you Peter. Yes. A happy station manager is an important part of the hobby!

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From Peter G4LHI

Hello Robert, I attach my report and claim for the March 2009 Ladder Activity.

We were not pestered by any of the high speed contests this month, apart from one that was on 40m at one time but it did not seem to worry any Fists activity. Of course we also had to contend with Mothering Sunday hi !!

The first session on 8th was fairly active, with some good reports, but on the 22nd both 20m & 80m, our usual bands, were very poor, lots of deep QSB and poor reports, however, as usual, very enjoyable albeit quite a challenge at times to hear all the QSO!, but the good old CW did not let us down.

I managed 23 QSO's for the two periods with a total score of 44 points for my March claim.

A couple of one pointers on the 22nd, many thanks Dan and Dennis, the rest were Fists Club Members, those stalwarts that are always there to support us and a few members who I think may be first timers on the Ladder, welcome to the activity and hope you enjoyed the fun and will be regular contenders.

These were, G3UAA, Alf: GM3PIP, Peter: G3ICH, Peter: MM0MRM, Moe: and G3BMO, Bert: very many thanks guys and also very many thanks to all who make this Ladder a very enjoyable event and long may it continue.

That's all for now folks, many thanks again and look forward to good conditions and lots of activity in April

73/88 de Peter G4LHI # 2219 & Jean

As ever, a pleasure to hear from you Peter. Many thanks for a concise and informative round up of the march Ladder activity. Lets hope the newcomers make a note in their diaries and meet you all again on air.

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From Stan K4UK with his summary of the WARC band activity during March.

Did pick up 13 multipliers this month and worked Larry, VQ9LA twice, once from home and the next day from mobile on my way home from the golf course.

This month I had eight QSO's on 17 Meters while operating mobile on my way to and from the golf course. Wish some of the VK and ZL members would get on, cause I had a nice QSO with John, VK6AU / P in Bremer Bay at 1202 UTC on 30 Meters.

All operations this month were either with the K2 running 14 Watts here at home or with the Ten-Tec Scout running 50 Watts mobile.

I operated mobile in the Virginia QSO Party the weekend of March 21-22. Conditions really not too good but I did have DL3DXX answer my CQ on 40 Meters at 2218 UTC Sunday when I was in Appomattox County. Hope we can get some more folks sending in logs for the Challenge.

73, Stan - K4UK

Good to hear from you Stan. Nice to hear that you're still active to and from the golf club. Hadn't heard you mention it. As a matter of interest, Stan is always happy to arrange a sked with FISTS EU members while "MIM" (mobile in motion) on his golfing days. Stans webpage can be seen at <http://www.rev.net/~stank4uk/> where you'll find the link to contact him.

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From Graham G3ZOD with his round up of the March ladder and WARC activities. And also comments on the subject of "Cut numbers" which seem to concur with both G3JFS and G3VVP (Still not been able to find how they originated though)

Hi Rob.

## Ladder

8th March: I found the 80m band conditions were mediocre but nevertheless had three contacts.

22nd March: In the afternoon session, 80m conditions were really poor and I only managed to contact Peter G4LHI. The very first Ladder session I took part in last year (October 2008), I heard no stations whatsoever in the evening, so just ignored the evening sessions after that. However, after the previous Brasspounder comments, I decided to give it a go and was pleasantly surprised this time to have three contacts.

## WARC Challenge

Very little to report this month with just 10 contacts on 30m and no new multipliers. I've had a number of other things to do during the month; I spent some time on the air for Exchange Your Age Week and put a substantial amount of time into helping develop "Wiki" web pages for the Ham Radio Deluxe software suite at <http://wiki.ham-radio-deluxe.com> .. My contributions are the "Sat Track" (Satellite Tracking software) section and most of the "FAQ" (Frequently Asked Software) section. I also studied for and passed an IT exam. As I need to get busy with quite a few more exams, I expect that my future WARC Challenge entries are going to be equally on the "thin" side.

## Other

### "Cut Numbers"

Regarding the comments last month about the operator who had 2009 in his callsign and sent it as "2TTN", the problem with this is that in a callsign, if people abbreviate numbers, you don't know if the characters are supposed to be letters or numbers. In other contexts, such as RST or contest serial numbers, it's less of a problem as it's pretty clear that it's a number.

I was looking into this further. Since I started out in radio, I've always heard 0 (zero) abbreviated as T and 9 as N. I now know that the practice is referred to as "Cut Numbers". The web site <http://www.ac6v.com/morseaids.htm#AB> gives a full set:

0 T  
1 A  
2 U  
3 W  
4 V  
5 S  
6 B  
7 G  
8 D  
9 N

Interestingly, another web site [http://www.qsl.net/zs1an/contesting\\_faq.html#cut-numbers](http://www.qsl.net/zs1an/contesting_faq.html#cut-numbers) gives a list that has different values for 3 and 5, and says that abbreviations aren't used for 4 and 6:

0 T  
1 A  
2 U  
3 V  
4 4  
5 E  
6 6  
7 G  
8 D  
9 N

A third web site I found <http://www.cromwell-intl.com/radio/morse-code.html> gives a mixture of the above two!!! As there doesn't seem to be a consensus on the abbreviations

and I've only ever heard 0 (zero) and 9 abbreviated, I don't think I'll be taking the trouble to learn any others!

Thanks for your round up of the months activities Gra.

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And from Kevin. G4CMZ. Who says;

Hi Robert,

I find propagation interesting at the latter time period. Looking to improve the aerial, can be very challenging with less than 2 watts.

Regards Kevin G4CMZ 6440

Many members are interested in low power operation. I'm continually in admiration of their achievements, and Kevin with his 2 watts is no exception! Good stuff Kev!

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Lets look at the all important results tables

| WARC CALL | TOTALS2009 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |           |       |        |       |
|-----------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----------|-------|--------|-------|
|           | JAN        | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DECTOTALS | MULTI | MASTER | PWR   |
| K4UK      | 41         | 160 | 67  |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     | 268       | 59    | 158    | 12QRO |
| IK2RMZ    | 37         | 50  | 37  |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     | 124       | 14    | 173    | 6QRO  |
| W4YE      | 41         | 48  | 15  |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     | 104       | 11    | 114    | 4QRO  |
| G3ZOD     | 100        | 59  | 10  |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     | 169       | 5     | 84     | 5QRP  |
| OH7QR     | 31         | 25  | 41  |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     | 97        | 4     | 38     | 8QRO  |
| G8XGQ     | 15         | 10  | 4   |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     | 29        | 4     | 11     | 6QRO  |
| W4FCR(C)  | 4          | 13  | 0   |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     | 17        | 4     | 6      | 8QRO  |

| LADDER CALL | TOTALS2009 |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |           |
|-------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----------|
|             | JAN        | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DECTOTALS |
| G4LHI       | 29         | 40  | 44  |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     | 113       |
| M5ABN       | 27         | 40  | 27  |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     | 94        |
| 2E0TEK      | 18         | 20  | 14  |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     | 52        |
| M0DRK       | 10         | 22  | 15  |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     | 47        |
| G4CMZ       | 0          | 21  | 26  |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     | 47        |
| IK2RMZ      | 7          | 12  | 20  |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     | 39        |
| G3ZOD       | 8          | 12  | 11  |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     | 31        |
| G0BAK       | 6          | 8   | 16  |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     | 30        |
| OH7QR       | 15         | 4   | 5   |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     | 24        |
| G8XGQ       | 2          | 10  | 0   |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     | 12        |

Thats all from me for another month. Look forward to hearing from you soon with reports/your activity etc. During the month of April. Till then. Keep well.

PS. Don't forget the EUCW QRS Party! FISTS Sponsor this event, so your support is needed!

Keep pounding the brass.



73. MØBPT



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