

BRASSPOUNDER

May 2011 Issue 62

As the months go by at what seems to me an alarming rate, I'm wondering just where the time goes!

I see from reading posts on the news group that many are enjoying visiting various rallies. Always good news that folk can find time to support these events. From a personal observation, rallies have been in decline over the past years, no doubt this is because of lack of support. But this trend seems to have reversed somewhat of late. A great plus for the hobby!

Let's take a look at some of the comments and reports received this month.

From Erkki. OH7QR

Hello Robert,

Here is my FSA-log for May. I had 69 QSOs of which 26 were with Fists (with 17 members) and 43 with NM. Peter G4LHI and I managed again to chat all 90 minutes during the month. Sometimes we have difficulties not to work overtime, HI. Anyhow, Peter gave me one point for my Rag Chewers Award, many thanks mate. I have now 73 points and so I need 27 QSOs more. I hope to achieve this award some day, HI.

Many thanks to you for your great work with our logs, Robert. I am sure that we all appreciate it highly.

All the best, nice summertime and take care.

161

de Erkki OH7QR

Hello Robert,

please find attached my claim for the May. Ladder is a good opportunity to meet friends and also to have QSO with new members. Hopefully there will be more participants, especially when condx are becoming better. On both Sundays I had QSO with Peter G4LHI, Derek M0DRK, Gra G3ZOD and Phil M6PHL. Many thanks and I'm looking forward to the next ladder.

73 de Erkki

From Gra. G3ZOD

Hi Rob. The Ladder proved tough again, caught between poor propagation on 80m and an S9+10dB electrical noise level on 40m

Four Seasons was more successful, though, with QSOs on a varied set of bands: 80m, 40m, 20m, 10m, 6m and 2m.

My latest projects have been a couple of 1 watt SDR (software defined radio) transceivers that I've had a go with on 30m, 20m and 15m. I've not really been down this low in power before and was not expecting much. However, I spent some time on 20m during the recent WPX contest and was surprised at the results - QSO-hungry stations with big antennas can make 1 watt go quite far, even on an indoor antenna: 96 QSOs in 29 DXCC countries. I'm not a fan of the wall-to-wall HF contests at weekends, but this has made me reconsider my position somewhat!

Sadly of course none of these QSOs help with Four Seasons (despite being asked quite a lot to repeat my serial number, HI HI). One that did though was a 15 minute chat with Sten SF7YT on 30m - I was pleasantly surprised that the minimal signal I was putting out was enough to keep a normal QSO going for any length of time.

From Peter. G4LHI

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim & report for the May, Four Seasons Activity.

My summary for May, the second month of the second quarter of the FSA.

I only managed 77 QSO's for a final score of 218 points, a lot lower entry than previous months, but conditions on all bands are poor at present, but very pleased so many guys made the effort under these conditions.

I was very pleased to work 2 new members, G0XCF, Colin. and OH5FNI, Timo, QSL's will follow shortly, thanks again chaps.

No highlights for me this month, unfortunately not any of my DX were Fists members, the only one was KZ8G Stan in Holly, MI & he was a "lapsed member". Very disappointing to find so many lapsed members on the list with quite big Fists numbers? But it was very nice to work DX & local non members and chat about our nice club, that's what this activity is all about, and maybe, we could get new members joining as a result of these friendly chats?

Dear Erkki, OH7QR, & I, of course ran out of time yet again & reached our maximum score & 90 mins early on the 29th, many thanks mate, I also had another 90 mins maximum with Graham, 2E0JKY, unfortunately he is not submitting a claim for the FSA, but kindly gave me points which is also helping him with his CW practice & on air QSO's, he is at present studying for the RAE for his full license, good luck with that Graham, then he will join in all our Fists activities I'm sure.

Very many thanks to all, members & non members who continue to make this FSA a very interesting & exciting event. Keep Bashing the Brass guys, it's great fun.
Looking forward to the bands opening up for us during the coming months & some god dx as well as local QSO's
73 de Peter G4LHI # 2219

From "Uncle Dick" SV0XBN/9

Dear Cousin..

Usual blank spreadsheet attached.

Well, the trip back to the UK proved more expensive than planned as I returned with the new Kenwood TS-590S!

Have been trying it out since my return and have worked a few to add to the attached list but will hope to do better next month – visitors permitting!

Now fully booked in August and September – where do these 'relations' keep coming from?

However, your room is still reserved.

Time to pour another cold one.

73

Uncle Dick. SVØXBN/9.

From Piet. PA3AFF

Robert,

Here my data for the FSA and Ladder competition from May.
Better condx on higher bands gave me Fists member IK2RMZ on 17m. Good hunting everyone!
Piet, PA3AFF

From Phil. M6PHL

Hello Rob,

Hope you are well.

Here is my log for the May Ladder activity.

While 80m is still very poor indeed, it was good to hear so much activity on 40m. I do hope a few more members put their logs in to be included on the ladder. Thanks to all again who gave me points this month.

As QSL Sub Manager for M and 2E series Call signs, I have just had a batch cards delivered and will be sorting these out hopefully in the next few weeks. I know that I have some cards for members who have not sent any SAE's but will still try and contact you if possible to advise that cards waiting.

73

Phil

M6PHL

Fists 14543

From Derek. MODRK

Hi Robert,

Here attached my log for the May Ladder. Not too much in the log but as you can see, 40m been very good to work on. The Snowdonia Wire Aerial now doing what it should so hope for better things next month. Many thanks to Peter, Graham, Phil and of course for Erkki for my points once again.

Hope all Ok with you Robert, take care, see you next month,

Derek, MODRK. 73.

From Peter.G4LHI

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim & report for May Activity Ladder.

Very many thanks again to all members & non members who persevered the ruff conditions to try & make the

Ladder Activity again this month, but the conditions on 80m particularly, were ruff yet again on both days, my score was very poor & I do hope that others may have had better luck than I did, good luck.

All my thanks, as ever, to members & non members that are always there in spite of the ruff condition.

I worked one new member, very many thanks Peter, M0CYR, 10897, & four non members that seemed very interested in our activity, apart from the members, I do like to chat with

the non members & hope to persuade them to join our Club one of these days? You never know.

A little tale against myself hi! A station, MM/ZS6JBJ answered my CQ, I gave him my details etc & he came back with his...seeing the MM/ in my mind I was thinking he was maritime mobile hi, & when he came back with QTH. Stewart...on, I asked him what ship he was Stewart on? hi!!He then came back, no ship, Stewarton nr Glasgow, we had a very nice chat, his name was John.

For the month I had 19 QSO's for 34 points, so can't complain.

Looking forward to June Ladder & perhaps 80m may be kinder to us all? Keep bashing the brass.

73 de Peter G4LHI # 2219

From Graham. 2E0JYK

Hi Rob,

Hope you are well, nice to take part in the activity ladder again.

I missed a full month (April) but i do enjoy working people on CW

Best wishes.

Graham 2E0JYK fists# 14822

General News.

FISTS Awards

Congratulations to the following members:

Ken G4RHR, #2248 - *Silver Century Award and Platinum Award*

Stan K4UK, #2934 - *Millionaire 15 Million Sticker*

Ray WB6SZZ, #5703 - *USA Worked All States Award*

Larry KA8HFN, #11631 - *Diamond Century Award*

Robert NG9Y, #14411 - *Basic Century Award*

Annual Renewals - it's still not too late!

if you haven't done so already, please remember to renew your FISTS subscription by the end of June to ensure that you receive the Summer Key Note (due mid-July).

Let's take a look at the results tables

Firstly the FSA

| CALL | APR | MAY | JUNE | TOTALS | CLASS | FISTS |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------|--------|-------|-------|
| G4LHI | 376 | 218 | | 594 | A | EU |
| OH7QR | 239 | 172 | | 411 | A | EU |
| IK2RMZ | 256 | 88 | | 344 | A | EU |
| PA3AFF | 138 | 97 | | 235 | A | EU |
| JO3HPM | 81 | 143 | | 224 | A | EA |
| DL1GBZ/DR40AGCW | 83 | 5 | | 88 | A | EU |
| K4UK | 83 | 0 | | 83 | A | NA |
| SV0XBN/9 | 41 | 30 | | 71 | A | EU |
| G3ZOD | 6 | 46 | | 52 | A | EU |
| DL1GBZ/DA2MORSE | 42 | 0 | | 42 | A | EU |
| DL1GBZ | 0 | 26 | | 26 | A | EU |
| HB9DEO | 13 | 10 | | 23 | A | |

And the ladder

| CALL | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | TOTAL | POWER |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| G4LHI | 28 | 37 | 34 | 20 | 34 | | | | | | | | 153 | QRO |
| OH7QR | 27 | 27 | 19 | 22 | 26 | | | | | | | | 121 | QRO |
| M6PHL | 20 | 25 | 28 | 15 | 29 | | | | | | | | 117 | QRO |
| MODRK | 0 | 22 | 19 | 10 | 16 | | | | | | | | 67 | QRO |
| PA3AFF | 13 | 8 | 10 | 17 | 16 | | | | | | | | 64 | QRO |
| 2E0JYK | 10 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 19 | | | | | | | | 53 | QRO |
| G3ZOD | 5 | 18 | 18 | 4 | 6 | | | | | | | | 51 | QRO |
| G0DUB | 4 | 16 | 17 | 11 | 0 | | | | | | | | 48 | QRO |
| G0BAK | 9 | 24 | 6 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | 39 | QRO |
| 2E0TEK | 17 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | 29 | QRO |

That's all from me for another month.

Apologies for a late BP.

At this moment I'm looking and checking entries for the EUCW QRS week. I hope to publish the results very soon.

Till next time.

Keep well,

Keep pounding brass.

73. MOBPT