

BRASSPOUNDER



September 2009

Greetings once again and its time for the September edition of BP.

Not a lot to report this month. SKW has been published online. Pleased that it was enjoyed by all who came on air during the event, lets hope we can go from strength to strength in 2010.

Lets look at members reports, observations during Septembers operation.

From Peter. G4LHI

Hello Robert,

I attach my claim for September Ladder & just a brief report for your next BP. Sorry not as active as usual, but did manage to get 7 QSO's for the first session & 8 for the second with a total of 28 points for September.

Condx were not so good on the first & unfortunately did not make our usual QSO with dear Erkki OH7QR, but pleased to make it on the second, many thanks mate for your support.

Thanks also to you Graham, G3ZOD, & Ed, G3TFV, we only managed the one QSO this time, better luck in October.

Also very many thanks to all members & non members that make this Ladder Activity such a nice friendly little event. There were a few members that do not often join us in the ladder, but perhaps the fact that the SK Week ended on the 12th & obviously the ladder was mentioned during this week, may have jogged a few minds hi!

Let's hope they may become regular ladder entrants in the future & put a log in for this event to Robert?

Once again many thanks to all, especially to our events manager for continually keeping such a good events calendar going, wonder what surprises he has in store for us for 2010?

Also in passing I would like to thank all members for their kind words & support for Jean & me during Jeans long illness.

That's all for now folks, many thanks again & look forward to good conditions & plenty of activity in October.

"Keep Pounding the Brass"

73/88 de Peter G4LHI # 2219 & Jean

Thanks for your kind words and support Peter, by the time you'll have read this, those who subscribe to the FISTSCW news group will have seen my post on there about the 2010 activity calendar being available for you to peruse. Information can also be found at the FISTS UK website. Which is now being managed by Graham, G3ZOD, who is doing a sterling job. Welcome qboard Gra...

Graham sent in this very interesting report and overview with his September log.

Hi Rob.

Soap Box: OM pse QRS!!!

A few times I've got into a "race condition" with other people. I've called CQ and someone has called me a little faster, around 20%. I've turned up my speed to match theirs and when they next transmit, they've turned up theirs so that they are faster again. I've then turned up mine a tad ... etc. I stopped doing it when I realised what was happening! I think the explanation is that some people perhaps lack a sense of speed and really think they are matching speeds. However, I recently heard a station calling CQ at 11 w.p.m. being worked by two stations, both considerably faster. The second one was using 15 w.p.m. As the gaps between words and letters were shorter than they should be, the effective speed would have been higher than 15 w.p.m. I'm quite sure about these speeds as all concerned were using keyers and I measured them by setting my keyer to match. The difference was so marked that I can't be generous and put this down to a lack of a sense of speed. More likely they just set their keyers to the speed they preferred sending at. It was very disappointing to hear.

Grumpy OM

While I'm being grumpy, I'll get this out of my system too! Can anyone spot the flaw in this sequence of events, heard from time-to-time on 3.558 MHz?

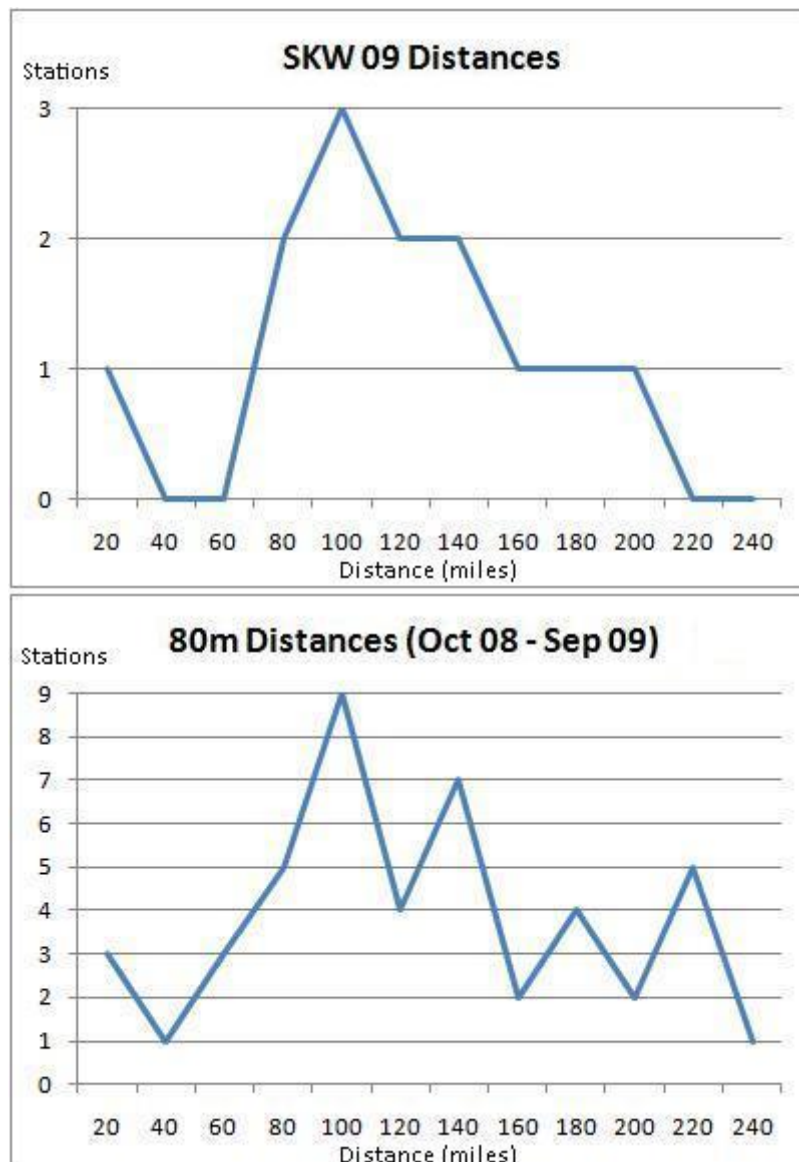
Beeeeep (~30 seconds tune up) - QRL? - QRL? - CQ CQ CQ DE ...

Straight Key Week (SKW) Analysis ... of sorts

I've been left with the impression that most of my contacts on 80m are 50-100 miles. FISTS Straight Key Week (SKW) gave me some information to play with as it

was within a short space of time and so similar propagation conditions (although I didn't have a large number of contacts). I crossed swords with Excel again (incredibly powerful program but frustrating figuring out how to do things) and plotted the number of unique stations I contacted at 0-20 miles, 21-30 miles etc. Satisfyingly, the graph did indeed show a peak at 81-100 miles.

Curiosity got the better of me and I went on to do the same for all my 80m contacts over the past year. Again, just unique stations (or else Peter G4LHI would have dominated the graph HI!) and I left out 3 European stations to make the comparison easier. I was surprised that the graphs are similar, especially the peak at 81-100 miles. I guess the experts are right about NVIS! The limits of ground wave also show up nicely (up to 40 miles on both graphs).



Conclusion: I need everyone interested in the FISTS events to move to around 90 miles from me a.s.a.p., please! HI

Ladder (September)

13th September: I missed the afternoon session due to visiting the Leicester Amateur Radio Show and the evening due to spending some time with my XYL (I

was also a bit weary by then). Interesting visiting a "rally" for the first time in many years. I had wondered if, aside from clubs/organisations, it would be nothing but "black boxes", but glad to see lots of components and assorted other items there too.

27th September: In the afternoon I was pleased to meet up with Erkki OH7QR on 20m for the first time in many months. There was a lot of RTTY down to 14.050 MHz - one of those times the 250 Hz roofing filter and DSP proved their worth. On 80m I was certain that I had worked Derek M0DRK before so was a bit puzzled when he said it was our first QSO. He was right of course; I was just used to coming across his callsign on the air and in BP!

80m in the evening session was a bit odd; I kept hearing non-English speaking stations using USB on frequencies between 3.556 - 3.601. I did wonder if they were trying to escape the RRTY which was occupying from around 3.570 - 3.600, but USB is not standard on 80m. While I couldn't tell what was being said, it sounded very casual. It's a conundrum since we're supposed to give way to non-amateur users, but what if you don't know who they are? (I should add there were lots of existing CW QSOs going on before this started happening, so the USB stations chose to operate on top of the CW.)

Two that got away: I heard Erkki OH7QR for the first time on 80m and John 2E0JCY, but wasn't able to make contacts unfortunately.

73 de Graham (Gra) G3ZOD FISTS #8385

Thanks Gra for your report and observations. Your comments on the use of USB on 80 reminded me of the many times I've heard J3 on 30M! It sounded like fishermen to me, never got to the bottom of it...

From Kevin. G4CMZ

Hi Rob. Just a few more points this month, experiencing very deep QSB. The station here consists of 1.7W of RF to a L shaped dipole just 3 metres high. The one and only advantage of this low antenna is a very low noise level, very rarely above S2.

Hi Kev. Condx still not what they should be. For your information, G3ZOD emailed to say, in reply to your question about others output power; is running an indoor doublet with powers from 5 to 25W.

From Erkki, OH7QR

Hello Robert,

Please find attached my ladder log for September. Conditions very poor on 13th but managed to get four QSOs on 27th.

The winter is coming. By night the temp minus 5 degrees but in the daytime between plus 5 to 10 degrees.

All the best, good luck and 73
de Erkki OH7QR

Hello Erkki, and good to hear from you. We've not had temperatures as cold as yours yet, but no doubt we'll catch you up hi.

From GOBAK

Hi Rob,

Please find attached my Ladder Log for September. I only managed one session this month due to other commitments. Once again I found things difficult with heavy local noise as usual. Here is hoping October is a better month. Best wishes to you and all the other Fists members.

73's Bill GOBAK Fists 13262

Hi Bill, everyone is commenting on bad condx and heavy noise levels, lets hop that condx soon return to some sort of normality.

From Derek. M0DRK

Hi Robert, attached my log for September. Many thanks to all stations who gave me points. Very nice to work Graham G3ZOD for the first time, a little difficult at times but managed to copy everything ok.

Take care, see you next month, Derek, M0DRK

Good to hear from you Derek. Pleased to hear you enjoyed SKW. Look forward to hearing from you next month.

Thats about all from me for another month, here's an updated table of the ladder; till next month, keep well, keep pounding brass!

73. MØBPT

CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS	PWR
G4LHI	29	40	44	30	27	7	0	26	28				231	QRO
M5ABN	27	40	27	21	0	0	15	0	0				130	QRO
G4CMZ	0	21	26	22	5	4	13	8	7				106	QRP
M0DRK	10	22	15	15	8	3	0	16	17				106	QRO
IK2RMZ	7	12	20	0	43	10	0	0	0				92	QRO
G0BAK	6	8	16	14	12	4	10	9	5				84	QRP
G3ZOD	8	12	11	7	7	4	7	6	10				72	MIX
OH7QR	15	4	5	5	12	3	0	14	8				66	QRO
2E0TEK	18	20	14	0	0	0	0	0	0				52	QRO
G8XGQ	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				12	QRO



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