

# *FISTS Straight Key Week*

*September 2006*

## *Results*



Hello All.

Firstly, let me say "Thanks" to all who supported the event.

Quite a few FISTS members were active during the week but I've had a few comments from participants telling me how quite a few had forgotten that it was on, or didn't even know it was on!

I shall have to re-dress the issue of adequate publicity for next year.

I noticed from some logs received that Nancy WZ8C (FISTS USA) who was in Belize during the proceedings was worked using the call V31AN. Would imagine that some of the WARC entrants would have liked that one!

Also I see that Stan, K4UK, found his way in to peoples logs.

Well worthy of a mention is Erkki, OH7QR who while travelling to visit family in Sweden, still managed to get on air!

He managed to work members while at his home in Tuusniemi signing OH7QR,

While signing OH7QR/M at Alajanvi,

While signing SM/OH7QR/M at Umea,

While signing SM/OH7QR/M at Kramfors.

He was active all seven days of the challenge!

He even managed to take some photo's of his mobile station.

take a look.



Erkki tells me that the trip was successful and the crossing from Vaasa to Umea and back awakened fond memories and that he had not "Lost his sea legs" (Hi) having spent eighteen years at sea as a R/O

Erkki was using a Yaesu FT897D with a Yaesu mobile whip coupled to a tuner. And a Lennart Pettersson key.

From Peter, G3JFS worthy of a mention.

Conditions were lousy with very little short skip propagation in the daytime and deep qsb on the few signals that did appear. Activity by Fists members was

disappointing but I worked several who either didn't know about the SKW or were using a paddle and didn't know they still gave points to straight key users. That might account for the low level of activity as several people said they do not own a straight key. I lost count of the number of cq calls that I put out on the Fists frequencies without a reply. In all I had 31 'Fists' contacts with 25 different members out of a total of 120 contacts. Evening time on 80m was the best for working members. 15 and 10m were dead when I listened and I had only one qso on 15m. Best dx was Ron, ZL1AMO, a non-member, on 40m and a few USA stations on 20m.

**My key is a 'Raymart Speed Key' bought in 1947 when I first started to learn morse code. I'm not sure exactly how much it cost but it was about 10/- (= 50p) and as a 12-yr old schoolboy I had to save a few weeks pocket money to pay for it. Like its owner it is now showing its age but still works and was a good investment. Since retiring 11 yrs ago it has been used to make over 37,000 contacts. It has also been around the world a couple of times and seen 'service' in the UK, W. Australia, Nigeria, Kenya and Germany.**

Thanks for your report Peter.

I was surprised to hear in your report, the fact that folk mentioned that "They didn't own a straight key"

Amazing! must be a sign of the times I suppose.

Interesting to hear of your Raymart key, yes, I'm old enough to remember the "Ten bob note" that it cost in 1947. (Is there anyone else out there amongst us who admits to remembering pre-decimal currency? Quite a few of us I would imagine!)

By far, I would imagine that Peters key was the oldest used for SKW.

(Unless of course, you know different)

Peter, G4LHI also commented on the lack of Fists members on the bands, but, as ever, enjoyed the weeks activity.

Straight on to the results.

SKW	SEPT	2006MASTERLOG
CALL		POINTS
G4LHI		162
G3JFS		151
IK2RMZ		98
M0DRK		56
G0GSY		49
G0RDO		49
OH7QR		48
M5ABN		42
G8XGQ		24
2E0TEK		24
M0CMQ		10

Congratulations to Peter, G4LHI who managed to claim 1st place by the narrowest of margins.

Also congratulations to Peter, G3JFS who came in a very close 2nd to G4LHI.

And congratulations to Martin, IK2RMZ for 3rd place.

Award certificates to the top three.

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Thanks for your support.

See you all again next year.



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