

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



Founded in 1987 by the late Geo Longden, G3ZQS

Recommended calling QRGs: 1.818, 3.558, 7028, 10.118, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

AUTUMN EDITION 2008



Club Goals

*Further the use of CW
Encourage newcomers to use Morse Code
Engender Friendships among members*

And remember
“Accuracy Transcends Speed , Courtesy at all Times”

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“When You’ve Worked A FISTS, You’ve Worked A Friend.”

FISTS Who's Who?

Many members that I meet at rallies often comment on they have no idea of who does what and so don't know who to contact for their questions. I Hope this helps.

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If you have any comments on the content or distribution of Keynotes then I'm your man! Also if you need info about Rallies that we are attending or if you have any articles for publication.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary
John Griffin M0CDL E-mail John@fists.co.uk
35 Cottage Street,
Kingswinford DY6 7QE

If you have questions about subs due or membership applications the please contact John for help.

Activity Manager: Robert Walker M0BPT Email Activities@fists.co.uk
125, Devereux Road,
West Bromwich., B70 6RQ.

Any comments and feedback about any of the Activities that FISTS run or information for inclusion in the contests and activities section of the newsletter can be sent to Rob.

QSL Manager: Chuck Spence M0AVW E-mail m0avw1@ntlworld.com
Contact Details:-
32 Woodford Walk
Harewood Park,
Thornaby., TS17 0LT

QSL cards and questions about the FISTS QSL Buro should be addressed to Chuck who looks after the Sub managers for different calls

News Group / Forum Manager MOBLT
Mark Waldon E-mail forum@fists.co.uk

Mark looks after the Yahoo group FISTS and can help with any problems you may have with accessing the forum or issues arising from it.

Club Sales Officer: Anne Webb Email Sales@fists.co.uk
40 Links Road, Penn ,
Wolverhampton, WV4 5RF

If you're looking for club badges, QSL cards ,car stickers etc Anne's your Man, err Woman Hi.

There are other people that help with the running of FISTS.
We have a number of QSL Sub managers that are working hard in the back-ground to keep fists alive and well.

G4's.
Mr Jim Steel - M0ZAK
6 CENTRAL AVENUE
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LE12 9HP

G3's
Mr Grant Merrils - G0UQF
2 East Street
Darfield
Barnsley
S73 9RE

G1,G2,G5,G6,G7,G8
& Specials.GB,GX etc.
Mr Rob Walker - M0BPT
125 Devereux Road
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B70 6RQ

G0's
Mr Selwyn Auty
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Boston
PE21 9AE

M0's, M5's, M3's 2E0's etc
Mr Glenn Waring - M0AYI
7 Tynedale Terrace.
Annfield Plain
Stanley
Durham
DH9 7TZ

Wales & SWL
Mrs Mandy Spence
32 Woodford Walk
Thornaby
Cleveland
TS17 0LT

EU &DX members. If you wish to receive any qsl cards from stations you have worked, could you please send postage in either UK£, US\$, or Euro to M0AVW. 73. Chuck.

Subscription Information

A number of members have contacted me to ask the amount to pay for their annual subs, and what by what methods they can make payment.

As you may be aware we are attempting to bring all subscriptions in line with a 1st of April renewal date, this means that if your subscription is due before next April we will adjust the amount you pay to bring you in line with a April renewal, you will not be asked to pay any more than the standard yearly subscription. if you do have any problems please feel free to call me, (Or email/write if you wish) and I will sort it out for you.

Subscription due between

31st Aug– 01 Dec 08 Pay £3 and renew April 09

Subs due after 01 Dec 08 and before April 09 just pay the standard subs fee and enjoy a couple of extra months at no extra charge, your next subscription date will be April 2010.

Payments can be made the good old way of cash or cheque; (made payable to FISTS) and sent to The membership sec , MOC DL (address on previous page)

Or if you're feeling all modern we can take PayPal payments to subs@fists.co.uk but whatever way you pay please include your fists membership number with the payment.

Any overpayments will be considered a donation and are always very gratefully received !

Autumn Already !

The year is flying past again, now it Autumn, the summer didn't seem to last long, a few warm days and its over, lets hope we still have a week or two of warm weather before the autumn really sets in.

Since the last edition I have had a busy time, as Chris my son gets older he is giving us more problems, (for those of you that are new to the club Chris is my 13 year old son that suffers from Autism) with work and his demands I find very little time for radio , Oh well with the darker nights I find Chris goes to bed a little earlier and so I hope to get a little on air time soon!

On the Job front I have recently made a change too, I was working for Bridgnorth District Council but with the change to large super councils I was going to be faced with a couple of hours travelling each day which I must admit I was not keen on, or find work else where. Well I applied for a Job in a local school doing ICT support and fortunately got offered the position which I started on the 1st September. I will let you know what its like in the winter edition but all seems well at the moment.

The old greenhouse toms are a bit strange this year. Normally they are all roughly at the same stage but this year I have had a much later crop than normal and the flowers seemed to have hung around much longer before the fruit started to form. Still the toms taste much better than the shop ones and if at the end of the year we have a lot of small green ones left over Anne makes a great tomato chuckney that will use them up without any waste.

I also have a few runner beans growing but they have not done to well this year, I have used the same patch of ground for them for a number of years and I guess that's the problem, next year I think I will put a few spuds in instead !

Over the next few weeks I hope to lower the window and give it a once over before the cold weather sets in, Its been up for a good few years now and although the antenna as been changed a couple of times the coax hasn't and if I get the chance I will replace the cable . I bought a reel of double screened RG58 a year or two ago and that will be very handy (If I can find It!) .

I normally enjoy building some small project over the winter months but this year I think I will just try and spend more time on air. Over the last year I have found that the eyes seem to have got worse and I need glasses for close work. I really dislike glasses and so I am not really looking forward to any future building work I end up doing.

That brings me to another point, there must be a number of people out there that enjoy kit building, I have been asked a few times in the past for help with building kits but have not been able to point to anyone that would be happy to do this work for others that can no longer do it themselves. If you fancy being a buddy builder drop me a line and I will put anyone that needs help in touch with you.

Still happy with the K3. Its a really great radio that has taken over from the K2 here in the shack. I take it along to rallies so its another good reason to come to Donington this year.

I was really please with the response I got from the email forum group when I asked for articles and that response as made this edition a bumper size edition. Thanks to all that sent me articles.

The Fists web site address was recently used to send spam emails to many people, the problem that gave me was loads and loads of returned emails that flooded my inbox. Its more than likely that if you emailed me and I have not replied by now that your mail was lost amongst the many junk mails I received. So please email me again and I should get it .

Club Project News

You may recall a couple of years ago we had a little club project to build a Small Wonder Labs (SWL) SW+ transceiver kit. Those that took part ended up with a nice little set that really does work and was ideal if you wanted a small low cost radio for holiday or just QRP use.

I have received a few requests to re-run the project and I have asked any interested members to contact me. Well we have had a handful of members say that they are interested but certainly not enough to make it worth while as a club project.

But... If you do fancy having a go with one of these kits let me give you all the info you need to get one.

Take a look at our club web site's members area and click on club project, there you will find all the details on how to build one of these kits in step by step picture form. Have a good look and make sure you are happy with the work needed to build one, it can be made by a novice builder if they just take care and do not rush it.

If you still think its the thing for you then pop over to Daves web site for SWL (<http://www.smallwonderlabs.com>) there you will be able to order the basic kit for a one of a number of bands and I would recommend the special enclosure kit with all the knobs, sockets etc.

The total cost at the time of writing this is \$107 inc air shipping to the UK, that's around £55 plus VAT which will be charged by the post office when they delivery to you (about £10 I guess with their handling charge).

These little radios work well and put out 2-3 watts over a decent amount of CW sub band, if your thinking about a winter project then you could much worse than considering the SWL SW+ range.

Some Antenna Tips

Chances are that you are using a coax-fed dipole antenna. Many people do. While that is not necessarily a bad thing there are a few things to consider

The ordinary half-wave dipole has a feed point impedance suitable for one band only. Which, not surprisingly, is the band for which it is half a wavelength long. If you feed the antenna in the middle with 50 ohm coax you should get a nice and low standing wave ratio, SWR. A SWR of 1:1 is ideal but anything less than 1:2 is perfectly adequate. If you do not use an antenna tuning unit, ATU, either internal to the rig or external then remember that most solid state amplifiers will reduce their output when the SWR gets large. If your amplifier reduces output then by you should be able to get the SWR down a bit lower trimming the lengths of the dipole's legs.

If you are using the antenna for several other bands then the SWR will most likely be high on these bands and a ATU is a must. There is normally nothing wrong with this situation but coax is lossy and specially so if it has to transport HF energy at high SWRs. It is not hard to loose more than half the output power (3 dB) in the coax.

Now 3 dB is perhaps nothing to get hysteric about (some people, like me, also DX with QRP levels!) but one can argue that increasing the output power only to loose it in the coax is, at least, silly? At the end of the day one should try to keep the coax run as short as possible.

A high SWR is like trying to start a car on too high a gear: It will not budge. The gearbox transforms the motor's energy into something that makes the car move. For our antenna we need a ATU to transform our amplifier's energy into whatever the antenna accepts to radiate. Using an antenna with high SWR without a ATU is not optimal - and can also be harmful to the amplifier. A better way to feed the dipole is through ladder line. The ladder line has higher impedance but that is not important here (we shall try to keep the technical mumbojumbo out of this if possible). What is important is that ladder line has much lower loss EVEN when the SWR gets high. So feeding the dipole with ladder line makes the dipole an instant multiband antenna! Unfortunately a ladder line needs a balanced ATU for best performance which can be achieved by attaching a balun (balanced-to-unbalanced) transformer between your tuner and the ladder. A balun is simple to make and in dire circumstances a balun-sort-of can be implemented with a few metres of coax rolled onto a cylinder with a diameter of, say, 10 cm (that's 4" for you pommies...). One end goes to your tuner the other to the ladder line.

Ladder line can be bought or manufactured at home. Ordinary household flex ripped apart makes excellent ladder line. Using small spacers the two wires should be spaced anything between 5 to 30 cm (2-6") apart. You need one spacer each half a metre (1-2') or so. When routing the ladder try to keep it away from metal by at least 30 cm (1').

Another ladder line type is made out of two close parallel coax wires. Use the centre wires as "ladder line" and short the braids together at both ends and ground the end to the rigs chassis. This line has somewhat higher loss but is perhaps more handy?

A dipole radiates mostly from its centre. It is therefore important to keep the centre up as high as possible. The far ends of the dipole need not be as high and can actually be folded down (but preferable not touching ground) with no detrimental effects on the radiation. The radiation is mainly at right angles from the wire with nil out from the ends. An effect of this is that half the energy is radiated onto the ground. Some of the energy penetrates the soil and makes the worms warm and cosy but most of it bounces back into the air again.

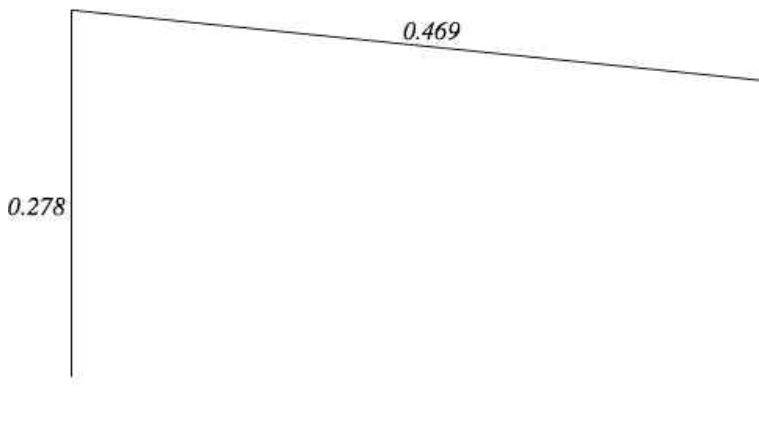
In this way the radiation straight down will bounce straight up and shoot into zenith where it eventually will hit the ionosphere and be reflected down to earth again - onto you or at least close to you! This is the basis for Near Vertical Incidence, NVIS, communication, enabling short range contacts. If you find that your dipole is best at shorter distances, say within a couple of hundred of kilometres then NVIS is likely your mode. Try raising the dipole centre higher and you should get better results at longer distances.

An uncommon trick is to flip the dipole vertical. This is perfectly possible and turns the antenna into a DX-only antenna.

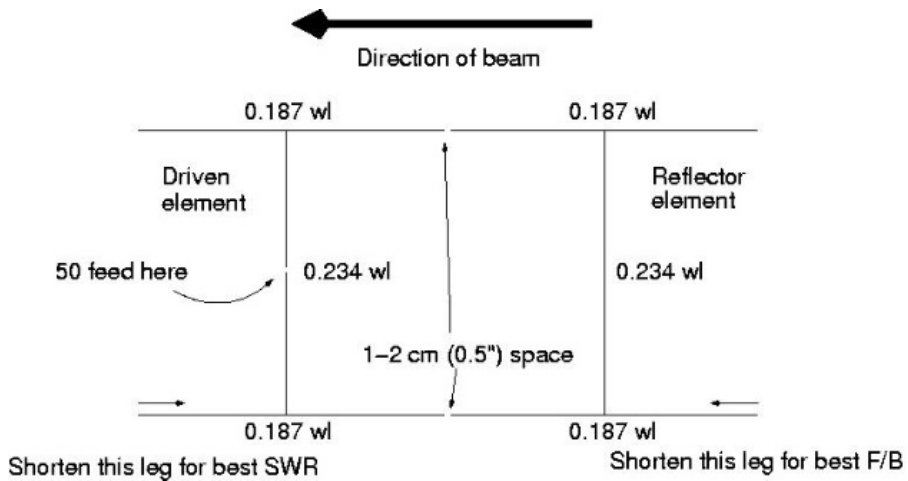
The radiation will now aim for the horizon and bounce off the ionosphere a very long way away! I have used a vertical half-wave dipole as my main DX-antenna for years and it works very well. In the picture you can also see my home made ladder line.



If you have been there, done that, got the T-shirt etc then a directional antenna might be your next project? A simple but effective (DX-wise) antenna is the half-square. It is also very simple to make. It consists of two vertical legs each $1/4$ wavelength long. These should be spaced $1/2$ wavelength apart and fed between one leg and the horizontal wire. Coax feed is preferred. There is some directivity broadside to the setup. You should get some 3-4 dB extra gain in this direction while sideways incoming signals should be 10-15 dB weaker. Not bad for a few wires! For most marked sideways rejection use the lengths (given in wavelengths) below, but the antenna is not that fuzzy. Really!



Beams usually need towers but several efficient wire beams may not require that amount of hardware. An lovely beam is the moxon (see www.moxonantennaproject.com for this fantastic antenna) and it can be made out of either wire or aluminium. Here I shall plug for a variant of the moxon, the GOGSF- wire beam. It can be described as a shortened moxon and is fairly easy to get going, see picture below



Calculate the lengths depending on your operating frequency: $1 \text{ wl} = 1 \text{ wavelength} = 300/\text{fMHz}$. For 14 MHz wire lengths are $0.187 \text{ wl} = 4 \text{ m}$, $0.234 \text{ wl} = 5 \text{ m}$. Trim lower right leg for best F/B and the left leg for best SWR. It really is as simple as that. Over ordinary ground it simulates thusly: And I am pretty sure the simulations agree with real life use of it. This is a favourite of mine which has served me during several portable operations. It does not weigh much, is easy to erect and works reliably.

Unfortunately it is a single bander - as a beam that is, I have used a 14 MHz version also at 18 MHz with fine results. Remember that one does not primarily use a beam to concentrate the emitted energy in one direction - but more often to silence the directions one does NOT want to hear. So the rearwards "deafness" of the GSF-beam is its main virtue not its gain!

Thanks Michael for a interesting technical article ...Paul M0BMN

A Letter From Tom DL3RL

Hello Paul,

I'm not sure if you want to mention it in the keynote, but a little note would be enough anyway.

Starting January 1st, I will not be organized in the DARC any longer. Therefore, I designed my own web-page to still be able to exchange QSL-cards in an easy way by showing my address and some additional info etc. on the web-page. It is the first web-site I created, so let me know what you all think. You can make entries in my guest-book. Here is the link www.dl3rl.de

The site is in English, to better reach the whole ham-community worldwide.

vy 73, Tom, DL3RL

A Plea from Ken G3SDW

BT is rolling out there system called BT Vision which pumps data down the house mains wiring connecting it to the PC to make the system cordless. The frequency range is 3to30 MHz and is causing very bad QRM to any one who lives close to that sort on installation as the main wiring acts as an aerial.

A Yahoo Group has been set up to try to sort the problem out via Ofcom and things are starting to happen. If you want to support our hobby please take a look at the posts that are on this site and also listen to what it sounds like by clicking onto the link below. There is also a link to the Yahoo site also.

Many Amateurs and SWL's have joined, even the President of the RSGB G3PSM is giving his support so I hope that we can all stick together and make sure we can save our hobby or else HF will be a thing of the passed.

This is what it sounds like

http://youtube.com/watch?v=S_UBDaL-aE

They are looking for new members who are concerned about this spreading problem and who are willing to try and do something to stop it.

If you already have the problem we can help you complain to Ofcom which may result in an improvement but more importantly raises the profile of the problem.

Please join with us if you care about shortwave and would miss your radio.

We are looking for UK members especially but welcome anyone from around the world.

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/UKQRM/>

Thank you for your attention.

Regards Ken G3SDW #10898

Well I have watched the video and its very worrying , take a look yourself Paul

Chinese Whispers _____ Chris Pearson, MOJRQ

Pontefract and District Amateur Radio Society – PDARS – has a long history and a long association with CW, too. A number of our members have been Morse examiners in the past and Reg, G4KMW wouldn't recognise a mic if you hit him with one! (Sorry, Reg.)

Our club station, G3FYQ, has recently become FISTS number 14041.

where a message is whispered first to one person. It's then passed person to person, without repetition or correction allowed: whispered along a line of participants. One of the classics of Chinese Whispers concerns the story of a junior officer in the trenches of World War I: ready to go over the top he instructs a runner to take a message back to Brigade HQ. "Send reinforcements," he says, "we're going to advance."

After passing this simple message from officer to runner, then up through the ranks, the Brigadier is later asked to "Send three and fourpence, we're going to a dance."

The Pontefract whispers will help our members improve accuracy – sending and receiving CW plus message handling accuracy.

After a few weeks of Morse tuition, the CW Challenge will begin. Reg is running classes every Tuesday evening during July and August to get some beginners started. Later the group will include several members who once took the Post Office 12wpm test, polishing up the skills of some rusty operators. Many of these 'Class A' licence holders have keys in shack drawers still waiting, after many years in dusty darkness, to blink again in the light of day.

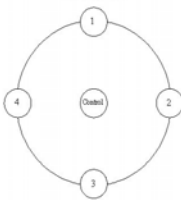
What happens?

The challenge sees a control station working like the hub at the centre of a wheel with the participating challengers around its rim. Reg, the controller, sends the first message to station 1 (See the sketch, Figure 1) The message is sent once, with no repeats and copied by the receiving station. The message is then passed, again with no repeats or corrections, from station 1 to station 2 and so on around the wheel until the last station makes the message back to control.

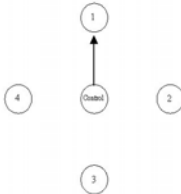
A second message is then sent from control to station two and passed round the wheel, with station 1 transmitting the message back to the controller. This continues until everyone has had a turn. We then get to see what's been copied around the group. The winner is, of course, the operator sending and receiving fewest errors.

Dave, G0SDO and I came up with the idea in the early summer and Reg tells us that a similar activity was used during his time in the RAF. Early sessions have confirmed that the challenge really does help to improve accuracy whether your natural speed is QRS or a rip-roaring QRQ. We're running the CW Challenge on 2m this time so that we have less band conditions to worry about (Does that mean 'Less excuses'?) but we are also thinking about an 80m event with a much bigger catchment area.

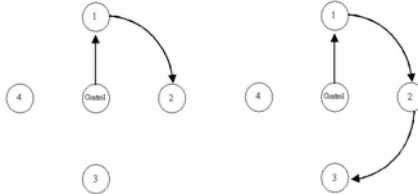
Stations arranged around controller



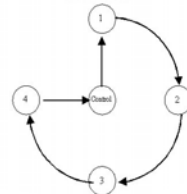
Controller passes a message to station 1



The message is passed around the loop, from one station to the next



The last station on the loop passes the message back to control



Its always interesting to hear what local clubs are up to and more so when it gets people involved with CW (Morse in this case Hi) ..Paul

Important News for anyone with a visual impairment

For some time now I have been asked if FISTS can offer a audio recording of *Keynote*, well I am very happy to announce that with the co-operation of the RAIBC we can now offer this service to our members that need this. Rather than me going on about it here are a few words from Chris Pearson , our member that as done all the work.

RAIBC – The Radio Amateur Invalid and Blind Club

Chris Pearson, MOJRQ

This issue of *Keynote* marks a significant development: it's the first *Keynote* that will be included in the Reading Rattle. But what, many of you will be asking, does that mean?

The Reading Rattle came into being in Reading, Berkshire thirty years ago. Graham Bedwell, G3XYX, struck on the idea of taped recordings of magazines as a service for radio hams unable to read print media. Graham says, "There was no reading service of any type of radio magazines as far as I can remember at that time. So it started on cassette and open reel to reel tapes, reading *The Bull*, *Practical Wireless* and *Short Wave Mag.*"

Supporting radio amateurs

The Radio Amateur Invalid and Blind Club – better known as RAIBC – has itself been around since 1954. Like many national organisations, RAIBC has local representation around the country to support individual members and there are local nets on VHF. At the national level, it holds regular HF nets, including a very popular Tuesday-morning 80m session. The club's magazine is called *RADIAL* and this is eagerly anticipated for news, members' views and coverage of their activities.

RAIBC is also well-known for its equipment loan scheme, run by Quentin Cruse, GW3BV. The scheme provides amateur equipment to members plus information and advice for qualifying licensed amateurs and non-licensed radio hobbyists alike. Much of the equipment on loan has been donated by other hams. Sometimes, when older – even vintage – equipment is given to RAIBC, rather than passing that on to members, the equipment is sold to enthusiasts of older gear; the money raised is then used to buy new equipment.

For many FISTS members, RAIBC is probably best known through its regular attendance at rallies during the year. The support the club gets from its members really is terrific. And the readers recording audio versions of magazines and books are typical, many of whom have provided unstinting service not just over years but tens of years. Which brings us back to the Reading Rattle.

Audio recordings

Since 1978 the Reading Rattle has provided regular recordings for RAIBC members, moving with technology, through cassette tape to CD and internet distribution of MP3 files. I'm still very much a new boy - I began reading *RadCom* for RR in the spring this year. I've taken up the reins from Alan Lovegreen, GM4FLX who is having a rest now that he's 86! Alan read *RadCom* for 30 years and remembers other RAIBC stalwarts like Brian Andrews, G4CTS; George Cassedy and Alec Littlewood to mention just three. I asked Alan how he got involved.

He told me “RSGB said that Frances Woolley, G3LWY had set up RAIBC with her late husband and she was doing something in the field of recordings for blind radio operators.” Alan contacted Frances.

“Frances told me about Graham Bedwell, G3XYX a BBC sound engineer who had started Reading Rattle and said no doubt he would be glad to hear from me.” An understatement if ever there was one, since Graham Bedwell himself says, “I must hasten to add I started RR as a one man band which was not very sensible,” and he goes on to mention that without the support of readers and contributors RR would not have thrived.

Alan himself not only read RadCom until this spring but – along with many other titles - has also recorded the *Foundation Licence Now!* course book through its many revisions.

RR publishes audio copies of magazines on the RAIBC web site each month – in a members only area – and the scheme produces a quarterly CD which is distributed to subscribers. So *Keynote* is joining a highly regarded and popular selection of magazines. Further benefits should also come through raising the profile of FISTS amongst RAIBC members and, the other side of the same coin, of RAIBC and its activities in the eclectic group that makes up FISTS' membership in the UK and beyond.

Alan Lovegreen sums it up, saying “It has been a good effort and I am really happy when someone comes up and says ‘I know that voice. I got my licence with your recordings.’ That's what it's all about.”

Get involved

FISTS members wanting more information can visit the RAIBC web site at www.raibc.org.uk, where there is plenty of further information and contact points are listed. The club's present Chairman is Kelvin Marsh, M0AID and he can be emailed at chairman@raibc.org.uk; the club's membership secretary is Brian Tuffill, M0FFS who uses the email address memsec@raibc.org.uk.

If you can't get to the web site or use email for whatever reason, you can write to Brian who lives at 1, Loggans Close, Loggans Hayle, Cornwall TR27 5BD. Otherwise, please get in touch with FISTS who can give you assistance and information on contacting RAIBC in other ways.

This is great news for FISTS , we do have a number of members that are also members of the RAIBC and now they will be able to continue keeping up on FISTS news. The recordings will be available in mp3 format and can be accessed from the link in the members section of the FISTS web site. Small cheap MP3 players can be found all over the place from just a few pounds so this is a great reason to buy one, also the FISTS CW course is in this format so why not ask Anne to send you a copy of that too. It only cost you the postage as the disk is free !

4U1WED – A special callsign of the United Nations in Vienna to celebrate the World Environment Day on June 5, 2008

World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Another resolution, adopted by the General Assembly the same day, led to the creation of UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme).

Under the subject „greening the VIC“ the United Nations in Vienna was the meeting point and location for several companies and organizations involved in climate- and environment-protection. Among the exhibitors were the administration of the city of Vienna, several departments of the UN, car rental companies etc. The goal of all of these participants was to sharpen the visitors' consciousness for saving and protecting our vulnerable earth.

The president of the UNSRC Amateur Radio Club in New York therefore allowed the Vienna International Amateur Radio Club (4U1VIC) to use the special callsign 4U1WED (World environment day) between June 1 and June 30, 2008.

Lead by Rom, OE1RKS (4U1VIC), on June 5, 2008, operators of the Austrian Amateur Society (OEVSV) together with radio amateurs of the United Nations Vienna have been operating as 4U1WED on the shortwave bands in SSB and CW and on 70 cm FM. Rom kindly invited me the day before to join this special event, and of course I gladly followed this offer.

A day before the operating tent had already been set up by the members of 4U1VIC on the huge round plaza in front of the UN buildings. The tent was our QTH that day and sheltered us from the rain. Solar panels had also been installed, so we could power our gear in an environment-friendly manner. On top of the roof of the conference building two G5RV antennas had been installed. We also installed a temporary wire vertical antenna on one of the flagpoles. The flagpoles really are nice opportunities for antenna installations and we are considering to use the 192 poles as an array...

From 0930 to 1500 local time (0730 to 1300 UTC) I was active on 40, 30 and 20 meters, exclusively in CW. My IC-7000 and the Palm mini paddle together with the Code cube did a nice job. Pile-ups have been amazingly heavy, especially in the afternoon on 30 and 20 meters. It was fun to be (once) again on the other side of the crowd. During the operation we used ordinary paper logs but all contacts have been added to the computer later. Gerhard, OE3GSU, head of the OE3 division of the OEVSV, Karl, OE3KYS and Christian, OE3CJB demonstrated the „emergency suitcase“, basically a metal box containing an FT-857D, a TNC, power supply and some other necessary items. The box can easily be transported anywhere where it is needed. This way reliable communication on the shortwave bands as well as on VHF/UHF is possible.

They were operating Pactor and 70cm FM. Rom, OE1RKS and Stuart, OE1ZGS/W4PR operated in SSB. Jun, OE1ZKC/JH4RHF was so kind to lend us his IC-756 pro III for the SSB-station. In the afternoon some more operators joined the team. Mike, OE3MZC (president of the OEVSV) and top-DXer Gun, OE3GCU continued to work on the shortwave bands until around 1700 local time (1500 UTC).



The QTH of 4U1WED

OE3SGU Working the popular CW Station at the event



During our operation interested visitors could watch the action. Information brochures, old Ham Radio magazines, licence training courses etc. were available for everyone free to take. People could directly ask us about our hobby and many were amazed,

that even in our highly technological world with cell-phones and the Internet, some people are still using radio waves and short waves to communicate over long distances. Even morse code is still being done – for many people it was the first time they heard real morse transmissions. We could tell them the good news that in case everything else fails we were still ready to bring that important message through. The idea to use solar power for our radios was being well received by the visitors and fitted perfectly to the „kick the habit“ theme of the day.

In total around 2500 QSO's have been logged with 4U1WED between June 1 and June 30, 2008. During the event on June 5 we could make 533 contacts (290 CW/234 SSB/9 FM). ***(Note More CW contacts than the other modes added together...Ed)***

It's a pity that we could not stick to our original plan not to send paper QSL's for environmental reasons and to confirm only via EQSL and LOTW. Too many OM's asked us for „real“ cards so the UN finally gave in and decided to order printed QSL's which will be sent out automatically via the OE-bureau. All contacts have already been confirmed via EQSL and – valid for DXCC – also via the ARRL's Logbook of the World.

The following persons were involved in 4U1WED:

For 4U1VIC: Rom, OE1RKS – Stuart, OE1ZGS/W4PR - Jun,
OE1ZKC/JH4RHF – Alex, OE1AWB

For the OEVSU: Gerhard, OE3GSU – Mike, OE3MZC – Karl,
OE3KYS – Christian, OE3CJB - Günther,
OE3GCU

And as a guest-op Hannes, OE3SGU

Summarised I may say that it has been a lot of fun and we hope that 4U1WED will be on the air again in the coming years. Thanks to all participants and particularly to Rom, OE1RKS for the invitation.

Hannes Grünsteidl, OE3SGU, for 4U1WED

Further pictures and information about 4U1WED and the World Environment Day can be found at:

<http://www.oe3.oevsv.at/opencms/moduleimages/4u1wed/bildergalerie.html>

<http://www.oe3.oevsv.at/opencms/moduleimages/4u1wed/wed.html>

<http://www.unep.org/wed/2008/english/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Environment_Day

Website of the UN organisations in Vienna:

www.unvienna.org

Website of 4U1VIC by JH4RHF:

<http://www.gsl.net/4u1vic/>

Thanks for the Info, I'm glad to see such a import event had a strong CW element and that it showed people that CW is still alive and well. Paul M0BMN

The Garden Fence

In the last edition i asked anyone that would like to thank the partner or wished to let of steam about the other half's radio antics to drop me a line, I have only received one article for this section so come on, invite your partner to put pen to paper or keyboard.

Combined ops, or enjoying the best of both worlds. By Peter G3JFS

The picture is of a newly licensed G3JFS and YL Sheila taken early in 1954.

The secret of a happy marriage within amateur radio is to catch them young. You then encourage them to do useful things like providing a helping hand with soldering bits together, drilling holes in bits of metal, putting up aerials, sorting qsl cards, brewing tea and coffee for visitors etc., etc.



Of course, all of this comes at a price. In return you must treat her like a Princess, take her on holiday in distant places (where by some strange coincidence you might just happen to meet some foreign hams), get involved with her projects and help entertain her friends etc., etc.

On a more serious note, I was first licensed in October 1953 while training as a Naval Artificer Apprentice and Sheila and I met in the December when I was home on Xmas leave. We married at St. Paul's Church in Hounslow in July 1957 so have been together now for nearly 55 years and married for more than 51.

Although Sheila is not interested in amateur radio as such she has always been supportive and has enjoyed being involved with amateur radio social activities. Certainly, her early 'initiation' into the ways of amateur radio was a good long term investment as even now she helps to get my long wire back in the air after it has broken in high winds. Also, the first time it was broadcast, she recognised a CQ call being sent out on a TV advert.

Being retired, I spend a lot of time on the air or in the workshop while Sheila spends a lot of time watching soaps and enjoying her own interests. We also spend a lot of time together so, like many aspects of life, it all comes down to maintaining a healthy balance. Remember, amateur radio is a hobby – do not let it become an obsession. Family first, hobbies last - that is the real secret.

Finally, Sheila's thoughts – 'I have no problem with amateur radio (except when he messes up my tellie!) and I never understand why so many wives/girlfriends have such a dislike of the hobby. If the OM is in the shack at least you know where he is.'

73

Peter G3JFS

Thanks Peter and Sheila, 55 years together, Me and Anne haven't even made it half of that yet! Any more articles for "The garden fence" please email or write to me .

Hi Paul,

No doubt this will not be so topical by the time it reaches the publishing stage of Keynote- if it gets there at all.

My big gripe at the moment is the attitude of local councils/planning dept to antennas. Nothing new you may say, But I have recently had a letter from our local Dictators (I presume as a result of a neighbours complaint) -and we only have ONE neighbour-demanding that I remove my aerial masts within 28 days or reduce them to 90 cm (yes 90 centimetres).

I have a scaffold pole about 18ft high and a shorter one about 10ft high in the garden, neither can be seen from the road or any public area or in fact from the neighbours house.

Both are tied up to a fence and / shed with string and so I regard these as temporary structures: They have actually been there for over a year now, possibly two. I should explain I refer to our QTH near Horn-castle, Lincs.

The 28 days have now elapsed and I am awaiting the fireworks. And of course, some clarification about the 90 cms - above what?

As a token gesture I have firmly planted in the ground a post to hold the washing line, it is about 10 feet high. And it really does have a washing line on it Now my little problem pales with insignificance compared with a much bigger and more significant antenna mast problem in USA at the QTH of K5RC.. who happens to have a dream antenna farm and who is now facing a law-suite caused by complaints from his near neighbour, a planning officer who has arranged issues of a stop work order when he was in process of erecting a tower which planning had already been passed.

That item was recently discussed on the FOC reflector. I won't go on but interested parties may wish to look at Toms website (see grz) and the web link .

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20080720/NEWS/792120336/1058/HEALTH&parentprofile=-1>

Back in Lincolnshire, I should briefly explain that my QTH here in Lincs (G3SCD) is only likely to be in use for a month or three each year, as we spend most of the year in VK (Fists 3756 VK3DBD) and although I have been QRV most days since June 1st Fists members on any band,3.5 upwards do seem as rare as hens teeth.

Stop Press: today, July 25th I had a ball, on 80 metres I found G4LMW fists member 14000 - my biggest number ever! Followed immediately by a qso with Bryan G0GSY and then G3AHS So there really are some other fists alive and active out there.

Looking around the bands most days, all except 160 which I do not have a reasonable ant for, I find that early mornings and late evenings seem to be the time for maximum activity. But this does depend on the band. I have heard the odd station on 21mHz and a few on 18mHz in the early afternoon. on 80m, the band one would most expect G's to be heard is mostly silent during the day, although I don't think this is entirely the result of the propagation, it is the ops that are silent! When a contest is on, day and night, the bands are full of QSOs seems to prove a point eh? Certainly propagation is poor: I arranged a sked on 30m with Fists member Dave, VK3FGE the other day and at 0600z called him on a "dead" band. He replied immediately and although it was not a really solid comfortable qso, we exchanged reports and a few comments and arranged a qsy to 20m,- which failed. At my end I copied him a real 539, he sent me a mere 339 but obviously managed to read some of my little puffs of rf coming from the low 30/40 meter dipole hanging all of 12 feet about the garden.

Dave has an impressive mast some 70 ft high, a pair of delta loops for 30 and 40m grace the top. But we were both only using 100 watts. During my time in UK this year I have been interested to note the relatively large number of qrp stations working with simple and/or compact transmitters like the Rockmite, FT 817, IC703, K2 and various homebrew flea-power rigs. CW is not dead..... I tend to winkle those signals out as I am sure they appreciate a contact more than some. The 80 and 40 m bands seem to be the favourites for QRP, but of course those who work the higher freqs probably would not be heard in Ganyway! All goes to show how a good challenge stirs some of us into action!

I expect to be in England until sometime in September, so look out for that rare G3SCD call - and for those with HF tendencies, I look forward to hearing some of you in VK in the future.

I'm always happy to try a sked with anyone on request, just email to vk3dbd@gmail.com

73 David VK3DBD/G3SCD

Rob MOBPT Writes

Congratulations on the Spring/Summer edition of Keynote. As ever an interesting and informative read.

Your piece entitled "The Garden Fence" telling the tale of woe regarding the mast etc. Had me reaching for the keyboard with much amusement. I was one of the riggers on this exercise, and I well remember the day in question. Even though it was almost ten years ago! What wasn't mentioned? The fact that the wind was blowing very strongly that day, with gusts up to 50mph as I remember! In a moment of madness, and to save me a wasted journey I cajoled the others present to go ahead with the attempt to get this monster pole in the air once and for all!

One or more of the guy ropes being let loose by others present! Me leaning a ladder against the once erected item while the others held on to pole and ladder with determination, and with a cobbled together Heath-Robinson hook assembly, trying to retrieve the wayward guy ropes which were, with the already mentioned strong gusts, happily blowing between 45-90 degrees from the vertical across the bemused neighbours gardens! When I look back over the years, what I (And no doubt other amateurs) have done in the pursuit of this great hobby of ours, I tend to shudder, but with a smile.

I'd noticed sadly that Tom, G3EFY # 6034 had made his way to the SK list in the previous Keynote. I conversed with Tom in the late nineties after contacting him on 80 with QRP whilst using a (real) Windom aerial for evaluation at my rural weekender in Worcestershire. I remember Tom commenting that he hadn't heard anyone using a windom for years, and in the ensuing correspondence, I'd made the observation about the problems I'd had trying to get my catapult to propel my light "String" to a decent height for the ends of the aerial etc. He subsequently replied with a tale of when he had used a bow and arrow to propel ropes to dizzy heights for his windom to be used during a post-war NFD event, with a G3 companion asking the concerned bystanders and users of the public area where they were operating to keep out of the way whilst Tom was doing his impression of an English Civil War Bowman!..... In conclusion, it should be pointed out to newer members of our society and hobby that safety is of paramount importance whilst erecting aerials/masts etc. The above mentioned happened many years ago, when health and safety practices were, at least, not as stringent as they are nowadays!

QRS Operation

In the last edition Richard F5VID gave us his thoughts on QRS operation, I have received a few letters from members about this subject.

Rob MOBPT wrote

I read with great interest, the article from Richard F5VJD #4870 entitled "Quickly Rectified Speed" Richard raised some excellent points which I assume were intended to promote healthy debate-discussion on the subject.

My thoughts..... Character speed of 12-15wpm with extended gaps, gaps gradually reduced to achieve to the desired requirement for a test pass is the way I and countless others were learnt. I've found that since getting the pass slip, your receiving speed increases subconsciously, again, no doubt also many others. Sadly, the required level of competence is no longer with us. As Richard points out, Morse does seem to be "en vogue" of late. Great for us who are enthusiastic users and wish to see the art perpetuated. But with no structured network of learning facilities as before, this is where the problem lies, GB2CW here in the UK has been resurrected and rightly so, but it should be used with the old structured learning centres that amateur radio clubs and evening institutes used to offer. I would hope that our and other countries national societies will look at the option of reinstatement of the national network of learning centres. Much sooner rather than later!

Regarding QRQ operation.....I'm of the opinion that, although it has its niche within amateur radio. QRQ operation, over the years has been the one sole reason that has, after asking questions to other amateurs, as to why they didn't continue with CW after getting the pass slip; and led to many ceremoniously "Burying" their Morse key under the tree at the bottom of the garden and continuing on HF with other modes. (Mainly J3 operation)

Some time ago, I was pleased to receive a call back from an ON station after a general "CQ" The ON station told me after exchanging pleasantries that I was his first CW contact in over ten years! "This would explain his hesitancy and nervousness" I'm thinking. However, time to say "goodbye" And he's looking forward to receiving my card for his 1st CW contact in ten years etc.etc. When another amateur calls him and proceeds to rattle it out in excess of 20+ wpm! So here we are, after a CQ and QSO at 12wpm and encouraging a fellow amateur to rejoin CW, his confidence was no doubt destroyed again by bullish behaviour.....I'm not suggesting that Richard or anyone else involved with our mode and society would act in this unpleasant manner! I'm merely illustrating the "QRQ Trap" Richard points out that when increasing speed and you return to normal operating speed how much slower it seems. This is what I consider to be the QRQ trap, where an op is used to sending at much higher speeds and finds it difficult to slow down, gets excitable and is soon back to using "Machine Gun Morse" Rendering the contact, to copy a phrase from Richards article "A painful and unpleasant experience"

Dear Paul,

Richards's (F5VJD) article hit the nail on the head.

A friend who worked himself up to being competent at 50+ wpm told me that when he could copy 80% at a given speed he increased his practice speed. Most operators can send faster than they can receive so following his example should be no problem. If you concentrate on rubber stamp QSOs it will be even less of a problem. Using off-air aids is not enough.

Please get a competent cw operator to check regularly your sending. If you can't find one then record your sending put the tape to one side for a week and then listen to it. It is most distressing to hear some of the new cw operators who are trying so hard but sending virtually unreadable CW.

Remember that there are three types of QSO: the rag chew, the rubber stamp, and the contest/DX QSO. Most operators find that they can handle these at different speeds; use this fact to pull your speed up. After rubber stamping at 20 wpm rag chewing at 15 wpm seems dead slow.

Finally adopt a positive attitude; learning cw is fun, you are learning a new skill, and you are improving all the time. Practice regularly, remember when you learnt to drive how you pestered Dad to take you out. That was a new skill and it was not easy to master it but you wanted to do it. It is the same with mastering cw.

Dear Paul

Re Richard Sayer's comments on increasing your CW speed. I am reminded of the methods used by the RAF in 1941. From the beginning we learned the sounds of the letters, no question of counting dots. I well remember being told that C sounded like 'murder murder', and Q was 'here comes the queen'. We were taught mainly by peace time operators, and they knew their stuff. We had one hour lessons twice a day. In the course of about three months we worked up to 12 wpm, with tests at 5, 7, 9 and 12 wpm, both code and plain language. We were allowed three goes at each test, and if we failed three times in succession, that was the end of it as far as being aircrew was concerned. You had to remuster to another job. A few were accepted as straight gunners. In 1941 they were still thinking in terms of three kinds of aircrew -pilot, observer and wireless operator/gunner.

This was despite the fact that the big four engined `heavies, were already operating ! It was not until 1944 that it dawned on the authorities that wireless ops had a full time job, and did not need to take a gunnery course. by 1943 the gunnery course for wireless ops had been reduced to a fortnight's ground school after which you suddenly became a sergeant! By this time we were up to and beyond 18 wpm. Going back to the Morse tests, at Blackpool these were held at Burton's (the tailors). Was this the origin of the term "Gone for a Burton", meaning killed on ops? Certainly, if you failed the Morse test you were usually "grounded". For various reasons I did not get into amateur radio till I was 69 and retired (1989). In the intervening years I had hardly listened to any CW, but when I started listening on the bands I could still read. To begin with I missed words and letters, but after about 18 months of regular listening I romped through the test with ease (12 wpm). I would definitely recommend learning the letters by the sound . I can send to myself with the tongue, not saying 'dit' and 'dah', but 'du' and 'dur'. Du is to rhyme with the as in 'the cat'. So 'accuracy' would be 'du-dur,dur-du-dur-du,dur-du-dur-du,du-du-dur,du-dur-du,du-dur,dur-du-dur-du,dur-du-dur-dur'. I have noticed that musical people are often good readers and senders. My friend Cliff G3EBH, now silent key, could send beautiful Morse, and he was a gifted church organist. I have been an amateur musician, and I enjoy the rhythms of good CW.

BRASSPOUNDER

For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge.

Welcome to the round up of whats been happening on the activities within FISTS.

Since the last edition, The results of the “Mixed Key Week” Activity are in. Sadly, poorly attended, so I’ve decided to end MKW and replace it with new challenge in 2009. I’ve had emails from disappointed entrants. But I can assure them the 2009 replacement will be as much, if not more, fun than MKW.

The Final MKW Results Table.

MKW	2008
CALL	POINTS
IK2RMZ	128
G4LHI	33
PA3AFF/qrp	23
G8XGQ	11

Also the EUCW (FISTS Sponsored) QRS Party took place during 28th April – 2nd March. Although conditions were bad, as commented by many of the participants. Which would explain the turnout being less than the 2007 Party. Nevertheless, members who did participate, enjoyed themselves. Let’s look at some of the reports-comments received from participants.

Firstly from YL op Rosel DL2FCA representing AGCW

Dear OM Robert, my LOG with 62 QSO’s during the EUCW/ FISTS-QRS- PARTY. It was so nice to work in QRS and I met some old friends from years before.

This year I haven't been able to spend the full time in the Party, but I look forward to the next year.

Rosel Dach/ YL DL2FCA/ AGCW 2051, HSC 1858, FMC 41. STN:

PWR 100W: ANT W3DZZ & 3 El. Beam:

KEY ETM 8C

vy 73 es cwfe Rosel DL2FCA

A pleasure to have you join the party Rosel.

From Peter.G3JFS. FISTS

This year I operated with QRO, which was just as well, as the conditions were very bad - much like last year, only worse. Out of 148 contacts 20 Fists and 2 EUCW Club members were worked. Few of these were taking part in the QRS Party and several even said that they didn't know anything about it! Despite the poor conditions some reasonable dx was worked such as ZD7X, FM5LD, 5Z4FM and GM0HCQ/MM in the South Atlantic, who was home-ward bound from the Antarctic. These were the only contacts made on 17m and nothing was even heard on the higher bands at the times I was active. 30m was the best band for contacts though the only members I worked were David, VK3DBD, and Erkki, OH7QR. Peter G4LHI was very active on 30m but I never managed to copy him in Plymouth. We finally met up in the last hours of the Party on 80m and had a 30-minute chat before the propagation between us failed. I then went on 30m and rounded off the log nicely at 2230z by working Ivan, CP8XA (ex-GOLNX). 30m is worth watching in the current conditions as there is often activity there for much of the day when the higher bands are dead.

Here is a summary of the countries worked:

Band	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
DXCC	5	10	14	29	17	3	0	0	0

Although the level of participation was disappointing I had a lot of good contacts and renewed several old friendships. Quite a few QRP stations were contacted and this was possibly due to a note in a recent SPRAT magazine suggesting that G-grp club members should monitor the FISTS calling frequencies for activity.

G3JFS Station : FT1000MP MK-V and an IC706 with 5-150 watts, as appropriate. Antennas – a bent 120 ft end fed tuned with a Smartuner in a garden shed and a 40m doublet with tuned feeders.

73 Peter G3JFS FISTS # 8985.

Thanks for a concise report on your week in QRS Peter. I notice that 30m was of interest to you (And others) during the party week.

From Werner DK6TV. AGCW

I enjoyed the "EUCW/FISTS QRS PARTY" very much and it was a great pleasure to have all these very nice QSO's. Till next year bcnu / cwfe = 73 de Werner - DK6TV

Glad to hear you enjoyed the Party week Werner.

As a matter of interest, I was active with club call GX3ZQS intermittently during the party week. I managed to meet GXØIPX (Operated by G3VVP) on band for a chat. Sadly I missed Werner who called in to GXØIPX shortly after I'd cleared.

From Peter G4LHI.FISTS

Hello Robert, My EUCW QRS Party report,

I was very pleased and enjoyed the nice QSO's and chats and a nice lot of points, albeit not a contest, but was rather disappointed this year with the lack of EUCW Clubs activity, apart from the Fists Club, I only found AGCW, BQC & G/QRP, there may well have been others who I missed & my apologies to them. Last year I worked at least 7 Clubs.

Was very pleased to find Fred with GX0IPX on Thursday, the one and only time I have found him during his spell with the Clubs National Call, and he told me I had just missed you working him with GX3ZQS, sorry about that Robert. Hope you both had a nice lot of QSO's with those special Calls. I would like to thank all the stations that had QSO's with me during the week, sometimes each day, it was great fun and so nice to meet up with so many good friends normally only found once a year on this QRS Party, including Rosel, Piet and Pol. Hope you all did well?

Hope you get a good response to this 2008 EUCW QRS Party Robert and look forward to the 2009 event.

As ever, a pleasure to hear from you with your report Peter. the turn out was lower than last year but hearing reports about conditions not being good, I suspect that op's who were on air decided to give points away to the determined people who did soldier on.

Erkki OH7QR comments,

Conditions are slowly improving but not yet very good. 17M was very seldom open. 30M seems to be the best band.

It was a pleasure to hear from Larry, KC2OJZ from FISTS NA who comments.

Thank you for this great party; although I was not able to contact GB with any consistency, it was fun contacting the QRP from Europe. I think they were happy as well. Best one so far was .49 of a watt from GB the op was very happy with the contact. I had a lot of fun. I have been a ham since 2005 and have learned to love CW. I'm not real fast but I have a lot of fun and get to meet some great people. Larry KC2OJZ

Good to have you join in Larry. I'm sure the EU stations would have been very pleased to make your acquaintance. Let's hope that conditions improve sufficiently over the coming year and you'll make the trip over the pond with consistency.

From Adriaan PAØATG Ben-QRP

Still bad CNDX. Not so many CQ-QRS-callers at the time I joined the party. CU next year. RADIO: ICOM IC-703 running 5 watt output. ANTENNA: 20m end fed wire.

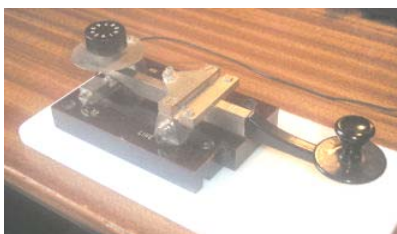
Again, Adriaan sums up the general feeling regarding condx this year. Peter HB9DST who had entered on behalf of the Helvetia Telegraphy Club (Thanks Peter) also commented that repeated calls of "CQ QRS" fell on barren ground. Let's hope that conditions improve (How many times have we said or thought this?) Over the coming year and EUCW QRS 2009 is a well attended success! Thanks to you all for joining in and supporting the event.

Some images of members with their awards. Firstly, images and an excellent article from Fred G3VVP, Fred was one of the recipients of the shared award in the "Most readable Morse" Category.

"At risk of BP being withdrawn under the obscene publications act, I have decided to comply with a request from Robert MOBPT, Publisher, Editor-in-Chief and Senior Scribe of this journal, to produce a jpeg of self holding recently awarded MRM Certificate (or part thereof) from EUCW QRS Party 2008. As this may be the final chance I would like to congratulate my fellow recipients of this award and invite them to join me in a 'penalty shoot-out' in 2009."

For the inquisitive amongst us here are a few images of the 'Franken-key' used throughout the month that I was activating GX0IPX. Not easily recognised in this naked state, it usually resides inside a grey box, surrounded by peripheral components and sitting on a large base. It is the inner workings of a long lever, leaf spring fulcrum NATO key, very similar to the famous Swedish Pump by Lennart Pettersson. Given to me last December as just the keying mechanism on the moulded Bakelite base and, as you can see from the relative lengths, very prone to 'lifting' when keyed. A quick trip to the local Cook Shop, purchase of an anti-bacterial chopping board and 10 minutes with some hand tools produced a very stable key which is a joy to use and "bug free" of course. The material of these boards is very easy to work, makes excellent key bases, insulators or dipole centre's or you can even cut it into strips for spreaders if you use open wire feeders. For a Fiver you can have a whole bag full of useful 'goodies' from just 1 board.

This key may not come with a 'Certificate of Authenticity' but it does have it's own dated, and timed, Co-op Till receipt!. Begali, Vibroplex, Schurr..... eat your heart out!! 73 all, have fun and pound brass!. Fred G3VVP Fists#5541 G3VVP with his "MRM" shared award and images of his "Franken-key" Used in EUCW QRS 2008 whilst



very kindly activating FISTS club call GXØIPX. I hope the other recipients of the award will take up Fred on his challenge for the 2009 EUCW QRS! I can inform you all that all three FISTS club stations, GXØIPX, MX5IPX and GX3ZQS will

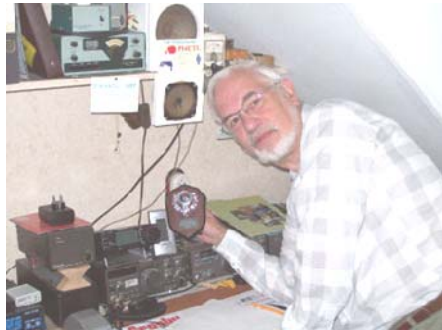
be on air during SKW (Straight Key Week) 2008. Many thanks must go to members G3JFS (GX0IPX) and G3VVP (MX5IPX) for volunteering their services with the calls.



Pictured is Rosel Dach. DL2FCA who represented AGCW in the EUCW/FISTS QRS Party 2008. Rosel was also a recipient of a MRM shared award. Rosel commented "It makes me proud and happy to receive the MRM Shared award, I'm looking forward to next year, if my family situation allows me to, I'll be QRV again in the EUCW/FISTS QRS party 2009!"



Pictured here on the left is Robi. HB9DEO. The third of the MRM Shared award recipients. Robi represented HTC during EUCW Week. Also pictured with his award is Paul. HB9DST. Paul operated HB9HTC (Helvetia Telegraphy Club) in the Class B section during EUCW Week. Congratulations to you both!



Adriaan. PAØATG (Benelux QRP)
EUCW 2008 Class B (QRP) Winner in his shack with some of the QRP equipment used. On the left is the Icom IC-703 on top of the TS-120V, both used for contest work. The IC-703 is also used for PSK. On the shelf is an old Heathkit HW-8. He tells me that not in the picture are his six hand keys and one microphone (Hi).

Pictured with his award for top spot in the EUCW QRS 2008 Class "A" Section. Is Peter. G3JFS. Peter amassed a winning score of 148 QSO's. Congratulations on his excellent score



Here's an image of award recipient Tony. G8XGQ. Tony, as many of you will know is a long time supporter of FISTS activities. He is pictured with his award for his efforts in MKW 2008. Tony emailed to say how disappointed he was to hear that I'd decided to end MKW because of lack of interest. He takes an active part in all activities in within FISTS.



Martin. IK2RMZ in his shack pictured with his awards. Winner: MKW 2008. Runner up: EUCW QRS 2008. Congratulations to Martin for his efforts



Very pleasing to see members and non-members who are willing to send an image for inclusion in BP! I receive many mails from members saying how good it is to put a face to the fist they've been meeting on air regularly for a number of years, either in activities, or answering general "CQ's"! Long may it continue.

The monthly ladder and WARC Activity have been going along nicely. I managed a full four hours of operation on the ladder during the 22nd of June! I'm quite sure that I may have surprised one or two when answering their CQ's! Very pleased to meet G3JFS and others for the first time. Condx were "marginal" shall we say, but kept plodding along, as ever nice to meet again, G4LHI and G6GUN. I'd just made contact with Ken, G3SDW, who then suffered a power failure! I wondered where you'd disappeared to Ken!

Lets take a look at the results tables for the past three months

Firstly the WARC Table:

Call	May	June	July	Multi	Gr-Total
G4LHI	231	172	230		11872
IK2RMZ	325	158	119	89	6
K4UK	92	92	106	68	84116
G6GUN	99	89	75	82	42558
OH7QR	87	59	59	41	20459
W4YE	46	14	29	21	10836
MØDRK	52	33	29	25	5750
KA3NZR	12	28	29	20	4860
G8XGQ	26	27	17	24	2352
W4FCR ©	8	9	8	13	1755
2E0TEK	44	0	21	17	850
DL1GBZ/	21	18	0	9	585
DP6M	0	0	1	3	468
K4ORD	0	0	0	8	264
G0XAH	1	10	8	4	132
PA3AFF				3	57

Bob. G6GUN, and Erkki. OH7QR, have both been activating various locator grid squares during the past few months.

Bob whilst carrying out his work, which takes him to all compass points within the UK.

Erkki whilst visiting different places of interest to him and XYL Leena. Erkki e-mailed to let me and others know that he'd making the trip to the Island of Hailuoto. IOTA EU-184 (Grid squares KP24 and KP25) And be operational during the 7-8th of July. He sent a report and two images recording his time there.



I had 23 QSOs on 30 meters and 15 on 20 meters. No success on 17 meters. One DX: with JA5TNF on 20 with 569/579. The picture shows the QTH on Monday the

7th. The weather was not very good during our stay on the island. Only the first day (Monday) was nice, then it was rain and cold. There are many narrow forest-roads on the island and we could easily reach the seaside. There are also many paths



for hiking, but the mosquitoes were too angry with us and we didn't walk much. Once we frightened an elk and I managed to take a snap.

Meanwhile, G6GUN was active as GM6GUN/m from various locators

Bob, G6GUN, ready to get into his "Office"

Bob is a regular supporter of the WARC and ladder activities.



He enjoys giving out new grids to all who hear him whilst working /m. Pictured with his Icom 706, tuner and aerial in his working environment.



He has opened up various new grids throughout the UK whilst stopping for a rest breaks and during overnight stops. He uses his trusty 30 year old Butternut Vertical which he assembles and takes down when finished.



Nice to see both Erkki and Bob activating new locator grids and generally meeting members whilst /m. I understand that they get quite a following when on their travels! Lets hope that a few more will hook up with them. Join the FISTS News Group on the internet (if you have access of course.) <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fistscw/> for information about expeditions and general CW interest.

On to the ladder activity totals for the past three months.

CALL	MA			TOTALS
	Y	JUN	JUL	
G6GUN	43	40	36	255
G4LHI	36	37	35	232
IK2RMZ	9	17	25	141
OH7QR	14	21	15	112
MODRK	17	10	11	97
G8XGQ	16	13	12	84
MOJrq	0	0	0	45
2E0TEK	21	0	12	33
G0MRH	0	0	0	9

G6GUN and G4LHI are battling it out, but Bob is holding back the charge from Peter with some excellent monthly returns. Incidentally, had a mail from Peter informing me of the latest addition to his arsenal of awards earned within FISTS. G4LHI with his recently received "Rag Chewers Award" Number 90. This award is earned by working 100 members with QSO's lasting 30



I'd like to share with you an image of Tony. G8XGQ.

G8XGQ and XYL Gill at the wedding of their daughter Ali to Karl on the 26th of July 2008. Note the devotion to FISTS as Tony wears his Fists lapel Badge with pride on this special day!



An item of news from Stan, K4UK.

I'm considering running KNØWCW / 4 / QRP during the latter part of August or in September. I may fire up on the WARC bands because they are so much fun.

KNØWCW is a FISTS NA Club station, #10000, worth 5 points if you're working towards an award etc. If I get dates of operation from Stan, I'll get it posted on the FISTS NG.

Finally, as you may remember, FISTS UK/EU Are reinstating the "FIST OF THE YEAR" Award. This is where you, the membership, vote for a UK/EU member who you think has done the most to further CW and the society in general over the past year. Enclosed on the following pages is a voting form for you to cast your vote should you so wish. Votes can be received by snail-mail to;

R.D.Walker. 125, Devereux Road, West Bromwich, B7Ø6RQ. England.

Or via e-mail, m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk

To be received no later than 31st December 2008.

Till next time. "Keep bashing the brass" 73. MØBPT.

e.d Photocopies of the form will be fine if you don't wish to cut up your newsletter.

Final Word

Phew, that's the end of a bumper edition this time. I am always glad when Keynote is ready to go to the printers. When I think back to when I started as editor and the monthly newsheet, I am really pleased that we now have a decent size publication that is well supported by our fellow members. Like always, I would love to get more articles so that we can be sure of producing the best CW Newsletter around so please put pen to paper or finger to keyboard and drop me your thoughts or any stories that our members would be interested in.

The 2 day Donnington Radio rally is fast approaching and Fists will have a table there again, so if you can make it please do and come over and say hello. Its the 24th/25th Oct this year and we have been informed that unlike last year there will be no major race events booked that weekend so we may even hear what you have to say!

Anyway have a good autumn and hope to speak to you all again in the Winter edition that should be out around Christmas time.

73 & 88 from Paul MOBMM

paul@fists.co.uk



FIST OF THE YEAR 2008

I, _____ (Call) FISTS Number _____

Would like to nominate

(Call-sign/FISTS membership number)

For "FIST OF THE YEAR 2008"

A Brief description of why you think your nominee should receive the award.

Signature _____ Date _____

Send to: R.D.Walker. 125, Devereux Road, West Bromwich. B706RQ England.

Email: m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk closing date 31-12-08

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Club Sales Page

Welcome to the club sales page.

We have a few items that are now available for members
 Hard enamelled badges £2.00 Inc postage.



Car window Stickers (Vinyl stick inside the glass) £1 each inc Postage



QSL Cards (with your own custom design on the front) £12.50 per 100 inc postage **NEW STOCK OF BLANKS ON ORDER CHECK BEFORE PLACING**



YOUR ORDER !



Standard FISTS QSL Cards, fill in your own details. £7.00 per 100 inc Postage **CHECK WITH ANNE BEFORE ORDERING !**

NEW Leather Key Rings
 £2.00 Inc Postage



For a better look at these items go to the FISTS web site www.fists.co.uk and follow the link for Club Sales.
 Orders can be placed now and sent to:

Anne Webb
 40 Links Road,
 Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 5RF. 01902 338973
 Cheques should be made payable to FISTS.