

BRASSPOUNDER

March 2021, Issue 154



Greetings one and all and welcome to the March edition of BP!

This is a short intro because I am extremely busy, because the thing is late and because I am currently suffering from another migraine. I am increasingly convinced that I suffer from a Casein intolerance. Is there anyone else out there with such a thing? I know many do (or some do anyway) but I wonder if any FISTS do? I'd appreciate your views and findings.

If you missed the talk on Y Service this month you missed a treat but fear not as it is on Youtube. <https://youtu.be/exUWnMktXTI> is the link. Well worth watching I think.

If anyone would like to offer a talk for next month please email me and I will sort it out.

Radios

I mentioned last time my G90 I think...well that went back to China as it is not fixable in the UK so whether I ever see THAT 400 quid again is a moot point.

The internal ATU is now fitted to my mcHF radio - I confess it is not a mod I would recommend. The ATU is ok but not great and the whole thing feels fragile in its operation...I don't get a good warm feeling from it as I did with Elecraft say. The rig is good, highly recommended, but use an external tuner is my vote. The things I do for you lot...

The mcHF is a nice radio and MONKA is no longer selling the cases so they are even rarer. If you can get an original kit and build it, you wont be disappointed...but it's a big IF given the level of support (low).

Back to Xiegu...what good radios they are but again, support is very poor. Xiegu haven't released manuals or circuits over here which is a pretty poor show but talking to a chap yesterday he made a very good point: they CAN'T! If they released circuits etc presumably a LOT of companies would start legal objections. (Xiegu lawyers note: I am alleging nothing!!!).

I was talking to him (this chap) because I bought a radio from him: an X5105 and the matching 125w linear amp. These are extremely well made bits of kit and work well. I had a quick play with the 5105 last night and I must say it is incredibly intuitive - which say a lot for the cheaper Chinese radios! I think beofung and Wouxun for example might be intuitive to a Martian but never to a human! I had one of those cheap VHF mobile rigs and even now it remains beyond me even to recall how to find a repeater! Free to good home...

The Xiegu ARE good radios and easy to use, but again no circuits or details etc so if it fails it fails. However the price made it a risk worth taking. I do think though that in future I shall stick with more mainstream radios.

Having said that...said same chap had on his desk a Mission RGO ONE HF transceiver. Now that IS a beauty. Up to 50 watts in a case the size of an Elecraft K2, a clean white front and simple controls. Hand made in Bulgaria (?) and all circuits and components freely available in the supplied manuals. Top notch. Worth a look if you're after a really nice and different radio. The ONE has got only 5 reviews so far on eHam but they all give it a 5!

Activities

I have been asked to set up more mechanical key days (MKD) to encourage the use of Bug keys (Lord preserve us!) so I shall be doing this...watch this space.

I have also been trying for some time to think of a What 3 Words activity and I think I have this now! How does this grab you?

The exchange is the What 3 Word locator of some significant point in your town OR you actual one if you wish (portabl say, or maybe you don't mind giving your home locator to an accuracy of 3 sq m). . So for me I might send (as a minimum say), RST, name, etc etc AND Salisbury Cathedral, STOPS.YAPPY.MASS (That's the proper one by the way...chance or mischief?)

The point is that you need to look up the W3W locator on the map.

There will be no logs submitted to Graham for this, just paper ones or final tallies to me. Honesty rules, ok.

Best 73

David
G4YVM

Right, that'll do. Off to the scores on the doors...

New to the 2021 Ladder this month are:

Dave G7WHI

Bela HA2ZB

Les G0DFC

Gabor M0LPZ

Welcome one and all...

Comments for Ladder February 2021

Entrant	Comments
Phil 2E0DPH	Here is my log for the February Ladder. Lots of activity again, thanks to all. Stay safe and well. 73 Phil
Nils DL3HR	Missed to send my Log in Time for January, sri. Here´s my log for February. tnx es gl to all FISTS, hpe cuagn sn.
Ivan G0BON	Condx much better this month. Nice to get some new contacts on the ladder too. Thanks everyone, stay safe.
Richard G0ILN	The last evening session seemed very noisy (QRN). Still new participants popping up on the ladder all good stuff. Don't worry if you are worried about your speed we will always slow down for you. Richard G0ILN
Chris G3XVL	Always enjoy getting on for the ladder sessions, they seem to be coming around so much faster these days ! 73 Chris
Robin G4DNP	Good to hear lots of activity 73s Robin
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for Feb Ladder . but I'm afraid the band condx were not at their best, lots QSB & QRM but I made it in spite of that Hi .Mni tnx to the organizers of this great event. Keep Safe & HN Y73 Peter
John G4LRG	Constantly changing conditions make it a challenge. Thanks to all for points.
Richard G4TPJ	Always good fun - good cw practice.
Ray G4XUZ	Limited time and noisy condx, but good fun as always. 73, Ray G4XUZ.
John G4YTJ	The afternoon session on 14th drew a blank but three QSOs in the evening (only two with Fists members) was a little better. Domestic duties precluded operating in the afternoon of the 28th but the evening session was my best yet. Six QSOs, all with Fists.
Chris G5VZ	A good start to 2021 and some new FISTS on the air. G6AD (on 14, February) was a treat as it was his first ever CW QSO - I've encouraged him to join FISTS! Sadly had to end early on 28. February at 15h00.
Dave G7WHI	Very variable deep QSB in the afternoon session. Stay safe 73 Dave G7WHI
Bela HA2ZB	My very 1st Ladder activity - great fun! Not too many contacts as I could not join the whole time. Massive QRM bw. 3557.8 - 3561.1, made impossible to receive in this part of the band. Stay safe & 73!
Paul M0GSX	Hi To all at FISTS, Hope everyone's well and keeping safe, please find attached my Logs for February 2021 Ladder, Condx were very poor the first session (14th February), with few contacts but the third and fourth session (28th February) much better, the afternoon was a little subdued but the evening towards the end of the session was very good with strong sigs all over 80M.. Please all stay safe and keep well and thanks to all the FISTS in the Ladder especially 2 new ones for me 2E0BKW (Gareth) AND GW4VPX (Allan).
Gabor M0LPZ	Very pleased to make my first FISTS Ladder, Thank You to all!
Ryan M0RSU	Hugely enjoyed my 2nd ever month of the ladder.
Steve M0SHM	Quiet this month, some poor condx at the moment. Also I need to revise the antenna here.
Mark M0UZE	Thank you all. Please keep safe

Pete M5ABN	Very enjoyable activity, many thanks to the hard working guys at Fists. Stay safe. Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Will MI0WWB	40 metres seems to have been the best band this month.
Alan MW0BGL	Very limited entry for Feb, again due to the aforementioned move. And I wasn't able to partake in the ladder for Sunday just gone due to other commitments. Cautiously more optimistic for March however
Graham MX5IPX	An unusually good session for me on 28 February evening with five QSOs in under one hour; normally I count myself lucky if I manage one QSO. HI. 73 de Graham G3ZOD operating as FISTS HQ callsign MX5IPX
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, here comes my log for February. All the best and stay safe. 73 Erkki fists 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	28/02/2021 Nany noisy disturbing signals on 80m 73 de Norbert ON4ANE
Joop PG4I	Thanks for the QSOs and see you in the next Ladder. 73 de Jo PG4I
Adam SQ9S	RIG: Bencher BY1, FT-2000, ant. GP7 Vertical 40-10m, PWR 100W. Tnx for all QSOs. Nice to meet some FISTS for the first time. Best 73 Adam SQ9S #20019

Results for Ladder February 2021

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb
G0BON	1	3	↑	166	70	96
G4LRG	2	1	↓	158	85	73
G0ILN	3	4	↑	155	67	88
G4LHI	4	2	↓	148	79	69
M5ABN	5	=6	↑	119	51	68
2E0DPH	=6	5	↓	108	57	51
G4TPJ	=6	=8	↑	108	48	60
G3XVL	8	=6	↓	98	51	47
M0GSX	9	=15	↑	87	30	57
DL3HR	10	11	↑	84	42	42
G5VZ	11	12	↑	78	40	38
G0JHK	12	=8	↓	67	48	19
M0RSU	13	17	↑	59	26	33
MI0WWB	14	=13	↓	57	33	24
PG4I	15	=13	↓	52	33	19
G7WHI	16	-	↑	48		48
OH7QR	17	18	↑	47	24	23
G3ZRJ	18	10	↓	45	45	
MW0BGL	19	21	↑	43	19	24
M0SHM	20	=15	↓	42	30	12
G4YTJ	21	24	↑	40	15	25
G4XUZ	22	22	-	39	18	21
M0DRK	23	=19	↓	33	21	12
ON4ANE	24	26	↑	31	12	19
PA0SIM	25	=19	↓	21	21	
SA1CCQ	26	23	↓	17	17	
SQ9S	27	33	↑	16	1	15
M0UZE	28	27	↓	15	9	6
HA2ZB	=29	-	↑	14		14
PA0VLD	=29	25	↓	14	14	
G4DNP	31	28	↓	13	7	6
G0DFC	32	-	↑	12		12
G3ZOD	=33	=29	↓	6	6	
G4TGJ	=33	=29	↓	6	6	
IW2JJS	35	31	↓	5	5	
M0LPZ	=36	-	↑	3		3
OZ8AGB	=36	32	↓	3	3	
MX5IPX*				15		15

* Check log

Upcoming Events

March 2021

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 28 Mar		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

April 2021

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Thu 01 Apr	Fri 30 Apr	FISTS Eu Word Search	Month 1 of 3 0000-2359 UTC
Sun 11 Apr		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 25 Apr		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Mon 26 Apr	Fri 30 Apr	EuCW QRS Week	0000-2359 UTC

May 2021

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sat 01 May	Mon 31 May	FISTS Eu Word Search	Month 2 of 3 0000-2359 UTC
Sun 09 May		RSGB 4m CW Contest	0900-1200 UTC
Sun 09 May		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 23 May		FISTS Eu Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
