

BRASSPOUNDER

August 2021, Issue 159



Dear All,

Welcome to August's edition of BP! I hope it finds you well. There's a lot gone into KN this time round so BP is naturally not going to repeat those things.

Now, we are all used to the strangeness of Cycle 25 by now I think but my goodness, it just gets better! The other night I saw on Logger32 a station in Peru...and worked him. Then a day or two later I heard a station from Argentina, and worked him. The path towards South America was a superb one and one FISTS did it on 10 watts...

Hey guys ,just worked OA4DX Peru on 7015khz at 07:00utc with 10watts and full wave end fed .I send an email to Tony about the QSL .OA4DX was also heard in the US
73, to all and hopefully a dry day
ON3MK FISTS 21229
Mor

How cool is that? If this cycle is only remembered for it's spasmodic excitement, that'll do for me!

Radios in museums

I popped into Tangemere Battle of Britain museum recently and must say it is well worth a visit and ten quid of anyone's money. Some excellent aeroplanes on display plus some amazing replicas. They have a full size replica Lysander there which took me a good ten minutes to decide it WAS a replica! Even then I had to look twice.

They also have a replica K5054 prototype Spitfire resplendent in gloss blue. It is a thing of jaw-dropping beauty and again, indistinguishable from the original. My words can add nothing.



However the real star of the show is not one, not two but THREE 1155 / 1154 pairs! As you know I had one of these which I no longer possess but I miss it terribly and hope that one day I have another set. I loved using Mr Chirpy and think those dials in their red, blue and yellow are simply divine. Anyway, snivelling over, I move on. In the Tangmere museum they have one set on open display with a bathtub key hooked up to a hidden oscillator...well, I had to didn't I? A few CQs and the curator said to me "well that wasn't very good!". Before I could stop myself and being too hasty to be polite, I blurted out "It blooming well was!". We

then had a good chat about the set and I explained how it was used. I even opened the front and showed the those beautiful big valves hidden away (it is not connected to power so quite safe). It looked all there and I bet it would work if powered up! Any way, as his eyes glazed I bade him farewell and tapped a short "pip pip".

Also at the museum is an old Wessex helicopter...I haven't flown it but an old Thomas Cook colleague of mine HAS...back in '84! Long story but it shows our age when our youth is in museums.

Headphones...

I have been messing around with small portable rigs now for a long time and always the issue is whether to wear ear buds or use the speaker. Frankly, I HATE earbuds, or earplugs as we used to call them when they were made of hard plastic and had a disc the size of a half crown on the back, a yard of curly wire and a warm crackle, so generally stuck to the speaker but then I saw SOTAbears selling little headsets – or earphones- like wot we used to get with Sony Walkmans and the like. Proper headsets, not these huge things kids today seem to prefer but which our generation worked hard to get rid of...progress, eh?

Anyway, see the pic. I recommend them and they are cheap and the audio is good. They come with a too-thin cable and a decent 3.5mm plug. They work well with my KX2, G90 and mCHF. Much nicer to wear than earbuds, lightweight and comfy.



Non-point scoring activities...and changes.

I've been after a nice activity for us for maybe October, no points so no scores to log just soapbox comments if you wish.

So, I know we all had a lot of fun with Chirp n Drift evenings and as we will soon be in to September / October, how about these ideas.

Straight Key Week 2021.:

Usual activity rules. To be run as a weeks event, H24 from September 27th 0001Z to October 3rd 2359Z. This covers a whole week and runs continuously. Please call CQSK if you are on a FISTS freq. The event is for STRAIGHT KEYS ONLY. No bugs! One whole week to put away those bugs, paddles and whatnots and concentrate on SK working. It will be intriguing to see how speeds change during the week!

Hallowe'en 2021

It might be my imagination but I seem to have met a lot of 1980s and 1990s radios on air recently, so quite a few of you / us have them! Lets give them an airing then. I propose the period over Hallowe'en 2021, so Friday 29th October to Monday the 1st November. Operating in the now usual cardinal periods of 0000, 0300, 0600, 0900, 1200, 1500, 1800, 2100. All times GMT / Z and for ONE hour at a time. Use the old rigs

you have not dusted off for a while and have a real QSO! No dx chasing, no “599 73” but a nice chat about those radios we have all but forgotten. Do send the soapboxes please.

Ladder 2022

I intend to add spice to the ladder for next year. Each month I propose adding extra points awarded for specific achievements: these could be QSO over 10 minutes, an exchange of W3W, use of homebrew radios, portable working on battery power and so on. Watch this space! It'll keep Graham busy designing new loggers!

W3W 2021

Sadly, for me, not one entry for the W3W event this year...needless to say there will not be a W3W 2022! Ya gorra try!

I think that's it...onto the tables. Best 73. David G4YVM

Tony, ZRJ, sent us photos of his keys but I printed these in the recent Key Notes, so won't duplicate here. Thanks Tony.

Comments for Mechanical Key Days August 2021

Entrant	Comments
Greg DL3GJ	Few QSOs - holiday! 73 de Greg DL3GJ
Ivan G0BON	Swedish key, QCX, 5W, QRP, doublet
Peter G3JRH	Had 3 QSO's on 20M during the day. Condx not very good, then had a power cut which lasted all evening so no more operating. Peter G3JRH
Chris G3XVL	HF Condx were bad, but 2mtrs was good for a chat with Ken, G4RHR
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for MKD 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 73 Peter
Paul M0GSX	Hi To All At FISTS, Hope all is well with you all and you're all keeping well, Please find attached my MKD July 2021 log, All Bands for me during the day were very quiet, just Managed Erkki (OH7QR) on 20M But Condx were very poor but we made the contact. Tried in the evening calling but very quiet again with only one contact (THx Rob G3RCE) on 80M this time but would send in my log. Was using a Begali HST in Cootie mode again, a little more relaxed with this mode now, but changing from Paddle to Bug to Cootie is still a bit of a brain crash for me trying to get brain and hand working together - still need more practice !!!

	Regards to all and Vy Best 73 for this month.. Paul M0GSX #17642
Mark M0UZE	Thank you all. Please keep safe
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, in spite of poor condx got eight QSOs this month. Condx were strange: copied a station at first 599 but during the next over he was down 329! 73 and keep safe. de Erkki nr 8318

Results for Mechanical Key Days August 2021

Callsign	Position	Points
G3ZRJ	1	32
G4LHI	2	29
G3GMS	3	15
M0GSX	4	14
OH7QR	5	11
G4XUZ	6	6
DL3GJ	=7	1
G0LLX	=7	1

Sadly this came too late but I will print Enzo's log here anyway.

Hope it's not too late. I worked all the QSOs as I/M0KTZ from a holiday QTH in Italy, using a QCX mini for 40m and an FPK Flat Pack key. Great fun!

Thanks. Enzo M0KTZ

QSO_Date	Call	Name	QTH	Freq	FISTS	Points
01/08/2021	9A7T	Radio Club Tule I Vuzic	Zapresic	7.034		1
01/08/2021	IZ00NL	Graziano	Gualdo Tadino	7.033	20682	3
01/08/2021	IZ5BBS	Renato	Barberino di Mugello	7.022		1
01/08/2021	IK1ZUV	Davide	NR Savona	7.034	""	1

Comments for Ladder July 2021

Entrant	Comments
Nils DL3HR	Conds have been not so good on July, 25, deep QSB and some QRN from thunderstorms. I could not participate the Ladder on 11.07. because of familiar matters, so I have achieved only a few Points in July during Ladder sessions. Hope to meet you all again in August, vy 73 - Nils
Ivan G0BON	Had to tear myself away for the Football final on the first evening, managed to get a decent amount of calls in the first hour. Second evening was a struggle with a quite a bit of QSB.
Richard G0ILN	Both weeks thunder and lightning was rattling around! It certainly makes you work harder! Many thanks to all who contacted me. Richard G0ILN.
Peter G3JRH	Only operated for the last evening session. Condx on 80 were reasonable.. Peter G3JRH
Chris G3XVL	Storms stopped play !
Tony G3ZRJ	Glad the evening session improved over the afternoon Keep safe 73 Tony
Robin G4DNP	Mni tks es 73s Robin
Peter G4LHI	G4LHI Claim for July 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 73 Peter
John G4LRG	Dreadful conditions again in the afternoon session. Thanks to all for the points.
Ray G4XUZ	Only managed about an hour in the evening sessions this time, but good fun as always. Thanks all. 73, Ray G4XUZ.
John G4YTJ	Once again only one session this month. Hopefully I'll be able to produce a fuller entry in August!
Paul M0GSX	Hi To All At FISTS, Hope all is well at Fists, Please find attached my Ladder Log for July 2021. Just managed the 2 sessions on the 25th of July this time cause of the football, Conditions for the afternoon session for me were poor with the lower bands 40 and 80 very quiet, I could hear I5ECW working many UK stations on 20, but tried to get in but no luck from here. The evening conditions were much better for the lower bands with plenty of stations on calling - so much better for me this time. Thanks for all the excellent work you all do for us behind the scenes to keep this wonderful club going, looking forward to MKD Day on Sunday. Paul M0GSX #17642.
Gabor M0LPZ	Mni tnx! 73
Steve M0SHM	Great as always. Better condx on 25th with 20m and 40m to Eu.
Pete M5ABN	A bit quiet this month, hope August proves more productive. Stay safe, Vy 73 Pete M5ABN
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, attached comes my log for Ladder in July. Hopefully, will the condx soon become better. SFI is still quite low. Thanks and stay safe. 73 Erkki
Norbert ON4ANE	73 DE Norbert ON4ANE

Jan PA0SIM	Condx poor and heavy QRN especially on 25th of July. 20m no option for G and DL. Heard Nils DL3HR very weak on 20m in the afternoon, but he couldn't hear me. Good exercise copying weak signals HI. 73 Jan PA0SIM
Adam SQ9S	Tnx for all QSOs in FISTS Ladder July 2021. Best 73 Adam SQ9S #20019

Results for Ladder July 2021

Callsign	Posn	Prev	Move	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
G0ILN	1	1	-	653	67	88	106	113	104	91	84
G0BON	2	2	-	595	70	96	106	92	78	87	66
G4LRG	3	3	-	527	85	73	96	90	51	65	67
G4LHI	4	4	-	486	79	69	59	73	67	63	76
M5ABN	5	5	-	474	51	68	76	77	70	65	67
M0GSX	6	6	-	345	30	57	55	62	55	53	33
G4TPJ	7	7	-	260	48	60	54	59	39		
DL3HR	8	9	↑	256	42	42	49	37	28	42	16
2E0DPH	9	8	↓	250	57	51	30	64	36	12	
G3XVL	10	10	-	222	51	47	40	36	21	9	18
G3ZRJ	11	15	↑	197	45			36	32	32	52
G0JHK	12	11	↓	193	48	19	17	45	49		15
G5VZ	13	12	↓	182	40	38	15	3	32	36	18
G3JRH	=14	=13	↓	181			39	51	43	24	24
G4XUZ	=14	=13	↓	181	18	21	38	29	39	12	24
ON4ANE	16	=19	↑	162	12	19	25	30	16	24	36
OH7QR	17	18	↑	158	24	23	21	17	25	19	29
MW0BGL	18	=19	↑	156	19	24	42	38		3	30
G4YTJ	19	17	↓	142	15	25	24	24	27	15	12
MI0WWB	20	16	↓	136	33	24	58	21			
PA0SIM	21	=23	↑	135	21		30	12	21	24	27
G0DFC	=22	=21	↓	109		12	38	35		24	
G7WHI	=22	=21	↓	109		48		52		9	
M0DRK	24	=23	↓	108	21	12	15	27	21	12	
M0SHM	25	25	-	102	30	12	9	18	12	12	9
M0RSU	26	26	-	83	26	33	24				
SQ9S	27	27	-	74	1	15	20	15	9	4	10
HA2ZB	28	29	↑	64		14	27		3	11	9
G4KLE	29	28	↓	59			35	24			
PG4I	30	30	-	52	33	19					
G4RHR	31	31	-	48				27	21		
M0UZE	32	32	-	39	9	6	6	6	6	6	
G0LLX	33	33	-	38			6		9	23	
DL3GJ	34	34	-	35				32		3	
G4DNP	35	35	-	34	7	6	12	3		3	3
G3ZOD	36	37	↑	33	6		9	9	3		6
IZ0ONL	37	36	↓	29			29				
M0LPZ	38	38	-	27		3	6	9	3	3	3
G0TLU	39	41	↑	25			4	3	6		12
SA1CCQ	40	39	↓	17	17						
PA0VLD	41	40	↓	14	14						
IW2JJS	42	42	-	8	5		3				

G4TGJ	43	43	-	6	6					
LB5DI	44	44	-	5			5			
2E0HTZ	=45	=45	-	4						4
IK1VQO	=45	=45	-	4			4			
OZ8AGB	47	47	-	3	3					
GX0IPX*				45					18	27
MX5IPX*				15		15				

* *Check log*

Upcoming Events

August 2021

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sun 22 Aug		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

September 2021

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Wed 01 Sep		FISTS Mechanical Key Days	0001-2359 UTC
Fri 03 Sep	Sun 05 Sep	FISTS What 3 Words	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 12 Sep		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 26 Sep		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

October 2021

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Fri 01 Oct		FISTS Mechanical Key Days	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 10 Oct		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 24 Oct		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC