



Greetings folks and some exciting news to start with. Some of you who follow the emails will already have seen this, others might not have. Either way this is the definitive article now:

FISTS Club project build and meet up.



Left: Kanga Kits Rooster 2 watt xtal radio



A little while ago I mooted the idea of a FISTS club project build and then meet-up on air. What this means is that we all (all those who want to anyway) buy a kit radio - the same kit – and build it at much the same time, then meet up on air using said kit. This is fun I hope for many reasons, not least of which is the mutual support during the build which for some is important.

I like kit building as it is a super way of self development (see your licence) and success, whilst not guaranteed, is greatly improved! Some kits are rather more complex or fiddly than others of course, and some kits are better developed than others. The Elecraft K2 for example was (is?) a superb example of an extremely well developed kit with success almost certainly assured. On the other hand I remember building a very complicated kit with many, many parts and despite my best efforts it just would not work. It got passed to several club mates who also found no success. In the end I sent it back to the designer who also found that as designed, failure was guaranteed! He resolved the design flaws, rewired the radio and it worked - but sadly by then the will to live had gone and it sat on a shelf until sold.

So, the choice of kit is important and I have found a few good kits but there are several criteria to be met – cost is prime of course, next is ease of build for those who have little experience, confidence or time. Finally, the kit must be useful! A Pixie kit with 500mW is fine, but to my eyes fairly useless. 5 Watts is perfect but even 2 watts is capable if folks keep at it.

So, we have settled on Rooster from Kanga kits. There's a full exposé from designer and seller Paul (a member of FISTS management team himself) which you can read, but basically this is a simple to build, most likely to work, 2 watts CW transceiver. You will need a tuned antenna or an ATU.

I have now built mine and can attest to the speed of build and the accuracy of the instructions. Obviously, you must be able to solder so if you cannot solder practice first – use a good iron, good solder and clean the board and legs of components before you fit them. If you don't know how to solder then do ask for help.

These Kanga kits certainly work – I have had several evenings of QSO now on mine so I know it works.

Have a read of the spec then see the proposed schedule below that.

Paul writes...

The Rooster was intended to be a replacement to the old FOXX3 that kanga sold for many years. The FOXX was popular but for me had major problems with AM breakthrough, getting a usable offset from RX to TX and power below 1 watt. In fact all I can receive with one is the local BBC transmitter on MW (yes I know you had the same thing john M0CDL Hi). I still get many people chasing me for the FOXX but I can only sell kits I trust to do what they say on the Tin and most of us living in the UK and EU tough RF environment the FOXX didn't cut it I am sorry to say, hence the new kit.

The Rooster is a simple fun little rig that can provide real QSO's, it's not a match for the K3 mind you!

The Rooster spec.

2 watts

Currently on 7.030Mhz (more on that below)

The Rooster is in a nice metal enclosure with a single RIT control on the front. Nothing else to source or buy.

About 20 parts to fits and IF YOU FOLLOW instructions should be buildable by most that have used a soldering iron before or can do so with care. It was first shown and built at the RSGB convention last year that I did the build-a-thon for.

The Rooster is a single Freq rig just one crystal channel.

Current on sale to FISTS members with a 10pc discount off the usual price of just £37.99. the easiest way to order is via the web site making sure to use the Discount Code 'FISTS10' giving the 10% discount .

Put a note to say your callsign and 'FISTS Project' so I supply the correct Freq crystals. There is a 'notes' page on the order pages.

Now as regards the operating freq. the rig is sold on freq 7.0283mhz (300Hz higher than our CofA. This is a design artefact and so we live with it) .

A good idea would be to read the instructions and see what you think.

[Rooster CW Transceiver Rev4.pdf \(create-cdn.net\)](#)

Any Questions just ask

73 Paul MOBMN

Back to me now...Paul, thanks for all that info. Sounds fab.

I am proposing the following schedule then for all those who wish to join the club project.

All participants to order and buy their own radios from Paul. It's a group purchase so make sure Paul knows you are in the FISTS group. I have had my kit delivered already to assess it for you and I can only attest to it's superb quality and professional presentation. The radio itself is largely SMD but these are ALL fitted for you; there being just 20 large components left to manually fit and solder. The case is drilled and screen printed and will turn into a lovely rig.



Left: SMD prepopulated.



Right: Bags of the other bits

Buy and receive your kit by 1st March. If you have a kit but want different crystals to enable you to join in these can be purchased now from kanga too.

Build your kit throughout March and April. Issues and troubles can be resolved during these two months, which should be time enough for dead projects to be posted around and sorted if needed. Have the kit built by 1st May. Order yours from Kanga on the website. <https://www.kanga-products.co.uk/>

First on-air get together May bank holiday Monday 6th May! I suggest between 1800 UTC (1900 UK) and 2100 UTC. I have created an activity called TopGun 24 for this...see below.

It would help me if anyone buying a kit to join in would let me know please so that I know who's in!
WHEN YOU ORDER FROM KANGA PLEASE STATE FISTS PROJECT SO THAT YOU GET THE RIGHT CRYSTALS

Best 73

David G4YVM

Below are the rules for the Rooster meet up: TopGun 24. Minor changes might occur as Graham resolves my crazy ideas into his software for the logger. The website published rule set will be the final definitive version.

Top Gun 2024											
DESCRIPTION	<p>Top Gun 24 is an activity designed for those who built and operate the Kanga Rooster kit as part of the FISTS club project. As with all FISTS Europe activities, it is a relaxed and sociable activity and anyone can join in regardless of rig. I hope someone can figure out why 'TopGun'! (TG Maverick...more of a clue)</p> <p>The results at the end of the year will list the leading three entries in two categories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entrants who use a Kanga Rooster. ▪ Entrants who do NOT use a Rooster. (QRP and QRO combined) 										
DATES and TIMES	<p>QSOs must take place on May bank holiday weekend, May 4th – 6th (a UK bank holiday but the event is not limited to UK entrants). Times as usual, 4th 0001hrs - 6th 2359hrs UTC</p>										
FREQUENCIES	<p>The following rules apply only if you are sending in an entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operating will be on or around the supplied crystal frequency. Most kits will use 40m, 7.0238, but if you build for another band that's fine too. 										
EXCHANGE	<p>The minimum exchange is: <i>RST, Name, QTH, and FISTS member number (if applicable).</i></p>										
SCORING	<p>Scoring: Remember two entry groups, Rooster users and non-Rooster users</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 10%;">Points</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Station</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Non-member whether on a Rooster or not.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>FISTS member (current or lapsed) NOT on homebrew rig.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>FISTS member (current or lapsed) on other homebrew rig.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>FISTS member (current or lapsed) on a Rooster</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Points	Station	1	Non-member whether on a Rooster or not.	3	FISTS member (current or lapsed) NOT on homebrew rig.	5	FISTS member (current or lapsed) on other homebrew rig.	8	FISTS member (current or lapsed) on a Rooster
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LOGS	<p>Entries must be received no later than the 7th of June and must include your callsign, name, and email address (if you have one).</p> <p>Log formats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The free FISTS Log Converter program https://fists.co.uk/flc.html for Windows is recommended for creating and submitting logs quickly and easily. ▪ Excel, Calc, CSV (comma-separated values), or TSV (tab-separated values) files. The first row/record in the file must include these exact column names although they don't need to be in this order: <i>QSO_Date, Call, Name, QTH, Freq, RST_Sent, RST_Rcvd, Time_On, FISTS, Mode, Points</i> Example: <i>2024/01/28,G4YVM,David,Salisbury,7.027,599,559,14:25,15868,CW,3</i> 'QSO_Date' and 'Time_On' are UTC. 'Freq' is in MHz and must be a decimal number only, e.g. 7.028 'FISTS' must either be blank or contain a FISTS member number only, e.g. 8385. 'Mode' must be CW 'Points' can contain a number or be left blank, e.g. 3 ▪ ADIF files. These can be ADI (text) files or ADX (XML) files and must include the fields named above. ▪ Other file formats may be acceptable - please ask. ▪ If you don't have access to email, you can use official FISTS Activity paper log sheets; please ask and we will post you a set. <p>The email address for questions and entries is logs@fists.co.uk.</p>										

How about this for something different? It's a special event station that's mostly Morse!!!

Special Amateur Radio Station OL80CLAY

80th Anniversary of the dropping the CLAY paratroops in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

Dear friends,

I would like to inform you about the special radio amateur station OL80CLAY. This station celebrates the 80th anniversary of the dropping the CLAY paratroops in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia during the WWII, known as Operation Clay.

These paratroops, like many others, were trained in Britain by SOE and then sent to occupied Czechoslovakia. So, I suppose that special stations like this may interest British radioamateurs, specially those interested in WWII military history.

The paratroops CLAY used radio station with cover name EVA and they kept regular contacts with the Military Radio Central (VRU) in London. By this special station we want to remember even this radio operations.

We want to start our transmission on 12th February 2024.

Please, can you inform your members of this event, we thank in advance very much to all those who will try to contact us.

Enclosed I am sending a detailed information, including a picture. This picture was taken from Wikipedia, so you can decide

if you want to publish it together with the text, I am not so familiar with the copyright in this case.

More to read on our [QRZ.com](https://www.qrz.com) web page <https://www.qrz.com/db/OL80CLAY>

Thank you very much for your kind attention to my letter, we are looking forward to many radio contacts.

For OL80CLAY

Best regards, 73,
Pavel, OK2BMA

The special event station **OL80CLAY** will be active from **12th February to 30th June 2024**. During the whole time of our activity OL80CLAY will be active on all radio amateur bands depending on propagation conditions, the main mode being CW, but we also want to be active on SSB, FM and possibly DIGI modes. Every first QSO will be answered by a special QSL card sent via the Bureau. Please do not send your cards. We will also answer with pleasure every SWL report sent via bureau to OK2PXJ or via email. Those who need to receive the card direct then please send a SASE. By operating this activity station we would like to remember the Clay Operation but we also want to express our thanks and pay tribute not only to the members of the Clay group but also to all the others who did not hesitate to battle for their native country even at the cost of their own lives. They deserve our admiration and recognition.

For OL80CLAY, Pavel, OK2BMA

Operation Clay took place 80 years ago and it was a cover name for the operation executed during World War II in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia by Czech paratroopers trained in England. It was organized by the intelligence section of exile Czechoslovak Ministry of Defence in London. They started out on April 12th, 1944 from an Italian base near Brindisi in a four engined Halifax aircraft piloted by a Canadian crew. There were two paratroop groups on board, Carbon and Clay. Carbon jumped out first, Clay came some time after. The Clay group consisted of the commander Sergeant Antonín Bartoš, Sergeant Jiří Štokman and Radio-operator Sergeant Čestmír Šikola. The whole group safely landed near village of Hostišová in the Zlín region on the night of 13th April 1944. Their task was to gather intelligence data from Northeast Moravia, send it to London by radio, and to cooperate with the local resistance groups to organize the resistance against the Nazi occupation.

To contact the central control (VRÚ) in London they were equipped with a radio station with the code name Eva. By means of this station they managed to transmit more than 800 messages and report about ten places for future weapons drops. Thanks to their large intelligence activity Clay belonged to the most successful operation.

Text partly borrowed from Wikipedia.



Photo from
Wikipedia

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/95/Halifax-mk3.jpg>

New Members

Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.	Name	Call	No.
Ben	WA7BEN	#22352	Mike	KF5RUO	#22368	James	M0JHF	#22432
James	K4NNL	#22353	Jean	KB9QLE	#22369	Don	M5AKY	#22433
Vincent	KE8UCE	#22354	Jacob	KC7WXD	#22370	Arthur	GWSWL79	#22434
Robert	KE8CUG	#22355	Keith	VA3KEI	#22371	Vince	M0KVVW	#22435
Wade	KO6ANM	#22356	Chris	VA7CKD	#22372	Grahame	M6GDT	#22436
Ed	W7LW	#22357	Matt	AE0XR	#22373	Jiri	OK2JIQ	#22437
Charles	K5CYA	#22358	Mark	KB6TWZ	#22374	Keith	MW0IBH	#22438
Michael	KD9SJC	#22359	Amrit	VE7OSH	#22375	Thomas	DO1TSW	#22439
Keith	KF0ORY	#22360	Dean	KD9REA	#22376	Gerard	F6EEQ	#22440
Adan	KF0DST	#22361	James	N7JMG	#22377	Namal	M7NML	#22441
Frank	NM9X	#22362	Jason	KO4NDP	#22378	Trevor	G0TVK	#22442
Jaden	KJ5DZD	#22363	John	KC1TLE	#22379	Erik	PE1PUX	#22443
Howard	NZ5U	#22364	Douglas	AE0SK	#22380	Neil	2W0IQY	#22444
Charlene	K8XCO	#22365	Chris	AG6CK	#22381	Kieran	VK2KMA	#22450
Paul	KD8YZD	#22366	Al	W1AES	#22382			
Peter	WO1J	#22367	Joshua	K3HIP	#22383			

Awards

Name	Callsign	Member	Awards
Robert	AF5Z	#2035	Millionaire 11 Million Endorsement
Steven	K2FW	#11990	Millionaire, Millionaire 2–25 Million Endorsements
Fabio	IK0IXI	#14539	Millionaire 18 Million Endorsement
Chris	WB9G	#16476	Millionaire 2–7 Million Endorsements
Mik	IZ2FME	#18103	Millionaire 10–12 Million Endorsements
Shannon	W8SCS	#21125	Basic Century, Millionaire, Millionaire 2 –4 Million Endorsements, Worked All States
Pavel	VA4ADM	#22004	1 X QRP, Millionaire 11–12 Million Endorsements

Comments for Ladder January 2024

Entrant	Comments
Simon G0FOZ	Great fun as always. 73 Simon G0FOZ
Mike G0JHK	On January Ladder I made a silly mistake I used my Club call G2LL and for some reason I gave my real call G0JHK Fists Nr 17448 on 14/1/2024. Must have had a senior moment ! Sorry Mike fists Nr 17448
Chris G3XVL	40m working well!
Robin G4DNP	Looking forward to activity in 2024 Robin G4DNP
Keith G4TJE	My first entry into the Ladder
Ray G4XUZ	Very limited time this month, so only two ladder QSOs. 73, Ray G4XUZ.
John G4YTJ	A poor start to the year for me. I drew a blank on the evening of 14th and the 28th coincided with a log drive so I couldn't operate for the afternoon session and to be honest I was too tired to try the evening.
Richard G6HH	happy new year to all fist members. First I have to apologies for my sending. I have a new to me, radio FT450D and RFI is getting into the keyer circuit! I ended up using my old TS440sat. Ah that was a lot better! Hopefully all will be well next month. Thanks for all the contacts. Richard G6HH Hastings Electronics and Radio Club. (HERC) Own call G0ILN.
John GM0EPO	Mni tks for QSOs. John GM0EPO
Pete M5ABN	Good fun as always. 73 Pete M5ABN
Alan M7TSM	Contest QRM end of last afternoon session on 40m -- hope G0JHK, Mike, got my details. Then, moved to 80m and found the other Alan in his usual spot to finish. Good fun.
Les MM0UMH	HNY to all :-)
Alan MW0BGL	Had two very enjoyable Ladder sessions this afternoon (Jan 28th). Band conditions seemed quite favourable; especially on 40. Vy 73, de Alan Mw0bgl 16507
Erkki OH7QR	Hello David, Here comes my first log in 2024. 73 Erkki OH7QR 8318
Norbert ON4ANE	Hi David, The log for this month. 73 de Norbert ON4ANE
Jan PA0SIM	Hope to do better next month HI. 73 Jan PA0SIM

Results for Ladder 2024 January

Callsign	Posn	Total	Jan
G3XVL	1	88	88
MM0UMH	2	73	73
M5ABN	3	70	70
G0FOZ	4	57	57
M7TSM	=5	54	54
MW0BGL	=5	54	54
G4YTK	7	45	45
ON4ANE	8	40	40
M0SHM	9	36	36
G0JHK	10	34	34
G6HH	=11	32	32
GM0EPO	=11	32	32
G4TPJ	13	24	24
PA0SIM	14	23	23
G4YTJ	15	22	22
M0MCL	16	18	18
OH7QR	17	11	11
G4TJE	18	10	10
G4DNP	=19	6	6
G4XUZ	=19	6	6
M0KTZ	=19	6	6

* *Check log*

Upcoming Events

February 2024

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Sat 10 Feb		FISTS Winter Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 11 Feb		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Mon 12 Feb	Mon 26 Feb	FISTS 60m Activation	24x7 LOCAL TIME
Sun 18 Feb		FISTS Winter Sprint	0000-2359 UTC
Sun 25 Feb		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

March 2024

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Fri 01 Mar	Sun 31 Mar	FISTS Win Copy of Roger So Far	24x7 UTC
Fri 01 Mar	Fri 08 Mar	FISTS Straight Eight 2024	24x7 UTC
Sun 10 Mar		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 24 Mar		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

April 2024

First day	Last day	Event	Times
Mon 01 Apr	Sun 30 Jun	ICWC Top 9 Quarter 2 season starts	24x7 UTC
Sun 14 Apr		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Sun 28 Apr		FISTS Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC
Mon 29 Apr	Fri 03 May	EuCW QRS Week	24x7 UTC
