

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/>

<http://www.fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>

E-Mail HQ: fist1@btinternet.com

webmaster: webmaster@asel.demon.co.uk

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW

32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh

3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY

CONTEST MANAGER: M5AGL

15a Buckden Rd, BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

COMMITTEE

Chairman
Vice Chairman
P.R.O.
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G4XHZ
G4YLB
G4YLB
G3ZQS

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations
Recommended calling QRGs:
3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:
<fistsawards@attbi.com>
written logs to HQ.

SUBS: e-mail Keypnote £4.00, UK mail £5.00, EEC mail £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated.

Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. Please include 3 2nd class stamps to cover return and running costs

Lapel Badges £1.50 incl. **Fabric patches** £2.50 incl.

QSL Cards £7.00 per 100 or £10.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add £1.00 for p/p. DX members - on advice.

Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets.

Please include your CALLSIGN on all correspondence.

Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <spence5@ntlworld.com>

M0AYI Glenn@m0ayi.freeseve.co.uk

M5AGL bobm5agl@btopenworld.com

have been going, it will not be long before I have to ask Nancy to send some more over.

Having had a very satisfying couple of weeks flying the flag with MX5IPX/P, M0LOE will be activating it again Dec22 to Jan5. Must be something of a magnet to the US gang. Don't forget that the call is available to all members. I ask only that your fist is good enough to justify the call.

The Post Office has excelled themselves. A Friday morning delivery included a slip demanding 99p excess on a letter waiting at the collection office. The following Monday a.m. (there is a mere two hour window) the slip was presented and unearthed a letter from G0BYA **complete with stamp**. Grrr!

ACTIVITY 2003

Bob, M5AGL, would like to make a few mods to the format of the activity ladder and SKW for the coming year:

Activity Ladder.

This is to be run on the last Sunday of each month from 0700 utc to 2100utc. The rules to be as previous contests but with one change to the scoring. Club stations to be included. Scoring: 1 point for non members, 2 points for members, 3 points for club stations.

Straight Key week.

I would like to run 2 straight key weeks as we used to in the past.

1. 0000 utc on 16th March to 2400 utc on 22nd March 02.

2. 0000 utc on 7th September to 2400 utc 13th September 02

The rules to be as in the past with one change to the scoring. 1 point for none members. 2 points for members and 3 points for club stations.

Hopefully by including club stations in the points it might encourage them to be on air.

Additionally, the US gang may be emulating both these events so there may well be profit in checking out the HF bands rather than the usual 40/80. Hitherto I have largely ignored the US Sprints, regarding them as strictly domestic but recent communication from Nancy indicated that EU/DX presence during these events would be most welcome. I will make the fixtures known as they occur.

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).

All UK/EU members send stamps and labels (no envelopes necessary) to the appropriate sub-manager as below:

M or 2 Prefixes (Except for Wales) M0AYI. 7 Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, DH9 7TZ.

G0, GM0 etc (Except GW0). G3JRY. 3 Rochford Cresc, BOSTON, PE21 9AE

G3, GM3 etc (except GW3). G0UQF. 2 East St, Darfield, BARNSELY, S73 9AE.

G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M5AAQ. 6 Central Ave, SHEPSHED, LE12 9HP.

G2, G5, G6, G8 (Except for Wales) and **ALL** special (GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

All members in Wales. GW0SGG. 14 Heather Cresc, Sketty, SWANSEA, SA2 8HE

EU/DX Members: IRCs, UK Banknotes or US dollars to M0AVW. The Club will provide envelopes. Any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL postage unless otherwise indicated.

GREETINGS

Well I am not sorry to see the back of November. Bonfire night stretched out to six instead of one creating the need to nurse maid Suzy for almost a full week. I have little doubt that many others with canine family members would have found themselves in the same boat. And all this because a bunch of malcontents failed to put a King and his parliament into orbit. Uuugh.

Strange happenings HF with most bands supporting only short skip stuff and then suddenly providing brief openings to some choice DX. Shame really because quite a number of US West coast members were audible during these periods but QSOs were terminated abruptly.

Up here in the hick country we have been enjoying many mild spells though at the time of composing this letter, a number of overnight frosts resulted in the sound of many credit cards being applied to many windscreens. Must offer sympathy though to those who found themselves threatened with flood warnings.

Those new US patches have been disappearing fast. I still have about 60 left from the original batch of 100 but the way things

WHOOOPS !

My apologies to some 30 members who were inadvertently sent reminder slips when in truth, they were in compliance. Most were recognised as soon as the error came to light (and brought up to date) but if there are any who have escaped the net then I would ask them to LMK asap. Embarrassingly, a Keypnote and reminder was sent to a member who was logged as silent key and really should not have been in the database at all. After up-dating the anti-virus suite, an occurrence of the worm virus I-bugbear was detected though I do not think that this would have been responsible for the kokup. A few sent their renewal unquestioning so I took the liberty of up-dating these to include an additional year. It is a little complicated but basically down to the change over of PCs and also the nasty trait of the accounts package which insists on defaulting to the last account edited. In fact, the situation was exaggerated by the need to constantly shift from one programme to another and from current to previous accounts with no less than seven members failing to identify themselves.

Of these, three simply sent a cheque and nothing else. Do please try to remember that because your callsign is unique it is used to index the files which are ordered on number only temporarily for labels and other purposes.

CW PRACTICE

Apologies to those who have been waiting patiently for the CW practice sessions to begin on 3.595 MHz at 1830 clock time since I first announced it almost 2 months ago.

Some of my students have had problems getting a suitable Rx organised, but have now done so, so given the final tests will happen this week (as I am only in Epsom for a couple of nights this week), regular practice on Mon, Tues, Wed + Thurs will start from next Mon (18th).

Reports welcome by email, by phone to my mobile or by fax. Contact <andy.digby@mail.com>

73's Andy Digby, G0JLX

FROM THE ANTIPODES

Ralph, ZL2AOH emailed the following:

The war continues: Extracted from QNEWS dated 9 November 2002.

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Conference is slated for the tiny nation of San Marino beginning today, November 10th. And according to W5YI Report's Fred Maia, it could be a rather hot meeting. The reason — two words — Morse code.

Writing in the November 1st issue of his newsletter, Maia says that the subject of Morse proficiency testing among those serving on the High Frequency Committee is shaping up to be controversial.

On one side are two giants. Germany's Deutscher Amateur Radio Club and the Union of Russian Radio Amateurs are two national societies who are already on record as opposing dropping Morse testing as an international requirement. Leading the charge to eliminate manual telegraphy tests is the Radio Society of Great Britain. It says that Region 1 of the IARU Region 1

international Amateur Radio Union should formally endorse the October 2001 resolution of the IARU Administrative Council in respect to abolishing mandatory Morse exams.

Both the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club and the RSGB have submitted well crafted conference documents stating their respective positions. How this will all work out will be known at the close of the conference on November 15th. (arnewsline)

QUADS FOR LESS QUIDS

Hi Geo A friend in christchurch ZL3RG. Graham sent me info on the Lighting Bolt 5-band quad. He has just put one up and rates it very highly. The price \$289 US (£185) shipping \$147.26 US. Customs want 1 to 6% plus vat but it is still under the price of a 3 band quad. I am waiting for him to ring so I can order one. If any members are interested the email ad is: Ibaquads@ztrain.com.

Grant G0UQF

SWANSEA RALLY

We are a little in advance here but it is worth a note in your diary that the Swansea ARS has kindly invited FISTS to participate in their rally 23 Feb/03 at the leisure Centre.

I understand that FOC has already made arrangements to be present and it is Bill, GW0SGG, who plans to launch a combined FISTS, RAFARS, RSARS and RNARS presentation. Should be quite a day.

WANTED

Narrow (200Hz) filter for Ten-Tec Corsair II which G0TUE has managed to get his sticky fingers on.

Contact: g0tue@aol.com

DX

From F5NQL:

Jean Marc, F8IXZ, will be QRV Dec14-22 from the National Park of Djouj in North Senegal near the Mauritanian border. A 6W callsign has been applied for but if not successful he will be signing 6W4/F8IXZ. Prior to this and also following, he will have short stays in Dakar with 6W1/F8IXZ. Activity primarily CW on 40/10M.

FIRST CLUB/DIAMOND?

A 10M contact with Mick, G3RYZ, was something of a milestone since it gave Stan, K4UK with the club call W4FCR the 1000th point needed for the Diamond Award. All told, the club has been collecting valued points from the C2C, Sprints and 15th Anniversary Award and regular monthly activity on the 15th of each month. Stan is hoping that W4FCR is the first club to gain the Diamond award and he includes a breakdown:

728 individual FISTS FISTS members including 47 clubs of which 12 were outside the US. Others include:

94 U.K., 39 Canadian, 35 Europe, 14 North America, 11 VK/ZL/JA, 3 South America, and 1 Africa. QSO's with 484 U.S. FISTS. The main operators of W4FCR were Buddy, W4YE - Riley, K4ORD - and me.

330 points only so far for the Platinum 500 but will be looking for 10 and 15 openings in the hope of completing this one during the winter.

AND STILL MORE DX

Again from Maurice, F5NQL:

Jack F6HMJ will sign TO2FG from Guadeloupe main island (NA 102, DIFO : FG001), for one month starting December 2002, 15th and ending on January 2003, 15th. Traffic on all bands HF. QSL via F6HMJ.

2M CW

Could you please make a note in the next available issue of Keynote that the group formerly know as twometrecw has changed to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VHF-CW/> and we now cover ten metres to 70cms CW. More information can be found at my website on the group homepage and the direct URL is <http://www.qsl.net/g0hga/vhfcwpage.htm>. The other thing is that I have had to restrict the group to UK and Europe as I cannot cope with it otherwise. My main objective is still supporting the 2m band but I felt pressured to include other bands. Angie is not exactly hanging about. At the cost of much CW activity, she has embarked on an IT course and is deeply into such things as web-page construction and other such stuff which is quite beyond the capacity of my own grey cells.

STAMPS

Hi Geo

I just thought i would let you know how the stamps are going., Up to now the church has received 31000 stamps 12000 of which our generous FISTS members have donated.could you thank them again in the next news letter and ask them to keep up the brilliant work, and in return I will press him to ask that all FISTS members be allowed in heaven with their keys hi.

Cheers Chuck, M0AVW.

SILENT KEY

Belated advice from his widow of the death of M0BLG, 8 March, 2002.

Bill spread his interests widely. 22 years as Councillor for Ipswich Borough, tropical fish, philately and what must be a most unusual pastime, painting model soldiers and of course, amateur radio. His framed Century award is still prominent in the shack.

THE DX STUFF

Dec2-Dec9, Virgin Isls, K9V

Dec4-Dec11, St Martin, FS

Dec14-Dec26,

Jan30-Feb16,Haiti,HH2

Many more noted but CW not specified. Also see the projected trips announced earlier by F5NQL.

OCTOBER LADDER

Thank you Bob, M5AGL for the returns below. Trust the job is not too taxing but at least it is keeping you off street corners!

Hi Geo, Once again its ladder time, it doesn't seem like a month since I sent you my first as contest manger.

Tom now has his nose well in front of Peter they both seem to find the contacts. Its pleasing to still get a reasonable number of returns. The returns for October are listed with the running

annual totals.

Activity Ladder 2002-11-16.

October Returns.		Annual Totals.	
G0SCP	317	G0SCP	2048
G4LHI	223	G4LHI	1933
M5ABN	125	M5ABN	806
G0MRH	61	MODRK	196
M0DRK	52	GW0SGG	180
M3GBT	50	G3VQO	169
HB9CHE	38	M5AGL	167
OH7QR	31	G0MRH	127
G3VQO	24	M3GBT	125
M0CMQ	20	OH7QR	111
M0RHB	17	HB9CHE	99
M5AGL	10	M0CMQ	91
M3XGQ	4	M0RHB	17
GW0SGG	NIL	M3XGQ	10

M0RHB is a new entrant, nice to see you Rod. Many thanks to all who take the time to give those above the points it would be nice to receive a log from you.

That's all for this month Geo, I trust you and Ivy are well. 73 de Bob. M5AGL.

G3TUX

The QRP Component Company

Stockists of Keys (Bencher, DK1WE, Jones, Kent Schurr and the Swedish pump) also agent for the Samson series of electronic keys.

Used keys of all types bought and sold

SAE/IRC for prices/data
PO Box 88, HASLEMERE, GU27 2RF
Phone 01428-661501 FAX 01428-66795

THE IN BOX

By and large the stuff in the 'in' box is afforded an immediate reply but the odd few are retained for publication.

G0DRT

I was interested to read about GM3PIP using the 1154/1155 gear. I too have some of this gear, and I use it now and again in both cw and a.m modes (sorry about the swearing!). I have had a lot of fun with it, and it still gives a good account of itself on the air. I also use a Collins TCS12 combo, which also works fine if you don't mind the clattering of the relays. My main station rig, however, is an IC746, which I operate mainly qrp cw, of course.

G3HAL

Just a thought on those speed merchants who won't slow down for a less competent operator or in poor conditions. I wonder if they realise that if they aren't communicating they are just adding to the level of QRM for everyone else.

73 de Pol

Well that's an oft voiced observation Pol and is perfectly valid. Don't know if it is FISTS oriented influence or what but there is sure a heck of a lot less of it than there was a few years ago. There are still people around applying the old CQ x 20 de Call x 3 who do not realise that people get bored and tune elsewhere but again they are not as prominent as a few years ago. Mayhap the good practices are contagious?

OOOOPS AGN!

I hang my head in shame. Towards the middle of the month, I got subs from a member accompanied by a whopping ten 2nd class stamps. After completing the business of logging the subs I had completely forgotten who the donor was since the excess stamps were not mentioned. Whoever it was... pse LMK as I would like to return a listing at least.

ROYAL MAIL AGAIN

Well I just couldn't believe it. I have been at this QTH since 1972 and all that time, there was an old fashioned red pillar box about 250 yards down the road. It accepted some 15 to 20 C4 stiffened envelopes (Certs and Awards) each month but with no warning

at all, it has now been replaced by a 'box on a stick' which accepts nothing over C5. Result is that unless I am prepared to fork out 64p return bus fare to the nearest sub-office, such items will have to wait for the 'shopping day' run to town. Grrrrr!

THOSE TICK BOXES

Dunno how many of you feel the same way but I just HATE those silly return forms which present tick boxes and are usually headed by such phrases as "Yes PLEASE" etc. etc. Reminds me of the awful advertisements in those cheap Yankee magazines "YES! Please rush me your special roach raider" etc inferring that the originator considered that although you could read, you were incapable of stringing more than a couple of words together. Last year I approached boiling point when the RSGB sank to this level with their renewal forms and complained bitterly. This year - guess what - same thing. I swallowed my pride and renewed FISTS membership though pointedly NOT using the offending form but I am hanged if I will respond to this for my personal membership. If this is an indication of their respect for folks who for the past 32 years have maintained their dues then they don't deserve support. Gerroff your soap box Geo!

WOODPECKER

T'was not of a strength to cause problems but what seemed to me to be the dreaded over-the-horizon-radar suddenly appeared on 40M one day earlier this month and slap bang on 7.028 of course. Could it perhaps be a side product of the current political situation concerning the Middle East? If anyone knows more then I would appreciate the info.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

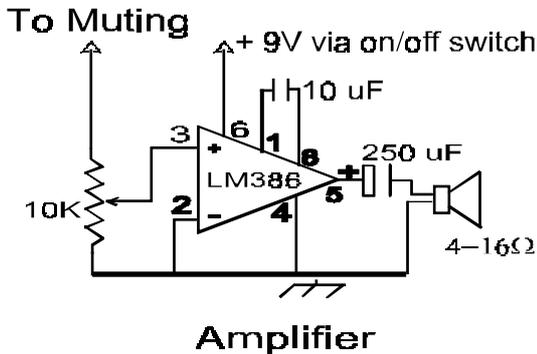
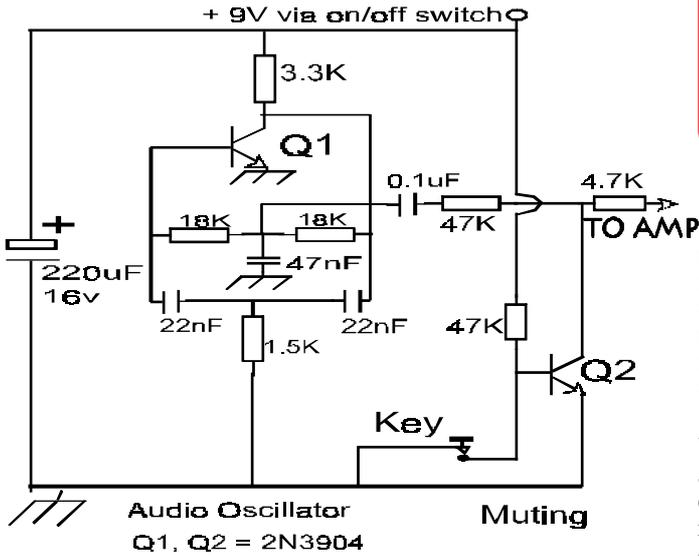
G5BM. Frank continues to enjoy his association with the gang finding members friendly and always ready for a rag chew. November produced 3X67C(10M), 9L1AB(30M), ZL2AOH + VK2YN(20M), FG8KN(15M), HP3XUG(12M), 7Q7BP(10M) and DL0SWA/DDH47 on 147.3KHz cross-band with 7.025. Only one thing bothering me..... why in blazes can't I find 'em? **G3JZV/G2JL.** New member Mort adopted the callsign of G2JL ex Bob Albright. After reminding Bob's son to take adopt it he said he would prefer Mort to take on the call since it should rightly be aired in CW. Nice gesture! **G0ELZ.** Bill may perhaps be back home by the time you read this since a short 4-day trip to Cologne Christmas Markets was scheduled for the end of November. He was armed with a FT817 and 'walkabout' antenna should the opportunity for a few QRP natters arise and whilst confirming that all is ticking over on Merseyside, he reminds me that there are no less than five Callsigns on four ships within a twenty yards radius - GB2PLY/GX0SJW on HMS Plymouth, HM Submarine Onyx GB0NYX, G0TON on the Bronington and GB2LBL on the Lightship Planet. The latter is not one of the group and is run by Lightship enthusiasts. Good grief. It must be chaos when they are all active. Such is the time spent on floating shacks he "even dressed XYL in oilskins and souwester to pipe Hands to Dinner". You slipped up mate. A more appropriate call would be hand of the mess to rum. **M0BDD.** Our Derrick may be found with a FISTS visitors book on the RSARS stand at some of the Midland rallies. Last was Birmingham on 17 Nov (which we missed of course) but keep an eye open for the Brown Jobs at rallies in the area. **M3TOP.** Upgrading from his M1TOP call, Topy extends thanks to Rosy (G0REA) for her patience in coaxing this 73 year old beyond the foothills of extreme QRS. **G3UAA.** Alf ponders the feasibility of a monthly QSO party for Century Award holders to promote activity and 'gee up' those who seem to delight in telling him "sri.. no CC yet". **G4GZG.** Larry wonders if due to his need to earn a crust and consequent mid-week evening activity he is missing out. Leastways he has the lingering suspicion that he is on the wrong bands at the wrong time. With the early nights Larry, 80M is generally favourite though 40M also comes into its own but then so does the noise. You can't win them all. Whilst applauding the DSP/IF shift etc of his IC756PRO, he recently fired up his old Eddystone EC958 with a Datong FL3 and found roughly the same selectivity and noise reduction. This old bundle handles adjacent sigs better I think Larry without the need for attenuation. **GM3LGM.** Bill's good lady has a diabetic condition akin to my own inasmuch as it is controlled by tablets. No family up there in St. Andrews and he enjoys only fortnightly visits from the high-flying daughter in Brum. In situations like this, amateur radio is a god-send.

NEAT PRACTICE OSCILLATOR

John, VE7NI, dug this up on the internet so I guess we can't claim originality. Think it could serve well as a project for foundation courses or such like.

Functions around a Twin T AF osc generating a near sine wave at 700Hz whilst the AF Amp will drive an el-cheapo speaker quite happily.

Note that keying is via Q2 leaving the oscillator proper unaffected by keying. With key up, the collector/emitter resistance is low enough to for a short circuit to ground whilst on key down, the same resistance through the ceiling. The variable is a 10K pot which adjusts audio level.



G4ZPY

KEYS AND PADDLES

All items hand-crafted with the skill of a trained engineer. Also miniature versions which are much acclaimed throughout the world.

SAE/IRC TO:

41 Mill Dam Lane, Burscough, ORMSKIRK, L40 7TG
Tel: 01704-884299

e-mail: g4zpy@lineone.net

<http://website.lineone.net/~g4zpy/index.htm>

QSL BUREAU

Chuck has asked me to remind you (again) to make your destinations clear on your outgoing cards. Top right of reverse should be inscribed FISTS, G-QRP, RSARS etc. With 1100 plus callsigns, he can't recognise them all and checking against the list is tedious to say the least.

EUCW FRAT PARTY

No detailed results as yet but I did get a quick word from Maurice, F5NQL with 134 QSOs, 368points via 60 multipliers in the EUCW Fraternising party. Sorry I was unable to make it due to the workload at this end but this is par for the course recently as free time is quite definitely at a premium. Looking forward to pressing the old RN pump handle into service for SK/W.

MORSUM MAGNIFICAT



Samuel F.B. Morse
1791-1872

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NEW MEMBERS

8966	M3BGH	John	8967	JE3ECD	Hide
8968	OK1NR	Jan	8969	MM0CTS	Ron
8970	G2JL	Max	8971	G3TEV	Mike
8972	MW0RMS	Den	8973	M0BYJ	Bob
8974	M0VRT	Larrie	8975	G3KPT	Gary
8976	M5BTG	Tim			

You will have noted earlier that G2JL is a redeemed callsign and also that M1TOP is now M3TOP and now, with the inflated contingent from the US and also the gang down under, we are rapidly approaching the point where it will be necessary to move on to 5 digit numbers. If I had envisioned the need for this back in the early days I would surely have started out with 00001 but hindsight as they say is a wonderful thing. Hi.

E-KEYNOTE

Andy seems to be running into 'bouncers' every month and it is costing time and expense to contact them. The maintenance of your ISP's dues etc. is your responsibility - not ours - so if delivery fails after a reasonable period, I must ask you to check that you're compliant with your ISP and check our website to see if Keynote is available for download. Please ensure also that we are included in your address book and in the event of any change of ISP or address we will be included in any mass mailing to this effect.

FINALE

The next Keynote will be the February edition and will be circulated in January. This gives yours truly a bit of a break and I may even have time to get on the air for a change. Hi.

All in all it has been a pretty good year. Our numbers continue to grow and with this in mind, 2003 will be worth looking forward to. The US and ZL/VK gang should be accessible to all our EU members with any luck so those of you chasing those awards will surely find the new year profitable in this respect. Keep up the good work people - have a super Christmas and may 2003 bring health and happiness to you all and your families.

73/88 and pse don't overdo the Christmas cheer. Hi.

Geo