

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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G4XHZ
G4YLB
G4YLB
G3ZQS

COMMITTEE

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@comcast.net>
written logs to HQ.

SUBS: e-mail Keynote £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. Cheques should be made payable to just FISTS.

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** £1.50 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

M0ZAK jim.steel@ntlworld.com

QSL BUREAU INFO

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). M0ZAK. 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

Pre-paid postal subscriptions

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 advised.

GREETINGS

What a funny old month we have had. Old Sol is sadly in need of some medication for the indigestion but the bands are slowly returning to something like normal. You will find on later pages a report from NOAA concerning solar activity but it has sure been a weird one. Hi. Up here in the West Lincs, the effects on 40/80 were not as severe as in other areas which offered reports like 59A. There were certainly no prominent auroral conditions to speak of though many stations in Scandinavia began to sound a little strange at times.

November is not yet out. The smell of gunpowder together with the screams and bangs of fireworks from bonfire night has barely subsided and already television programmes are interspersed with advertisements urging us to lay in a supply of whoopsie for Christmas. How long before we are encouraged to prepare for the following festive season in January?

Our first taste of real winter weather - strong winds and gales - affected many parts of the UK in the early part of November and the same dirty weather crept North and East so I do hope that none of you suffered collapsed antennas during that period.

The EUCW frat party suffered badly when it coincided with the INORC contest over 15/16 November which is really rather a shame. A couple of members were heard calling EUCW but with no takers on 80m and with no sign of such activity on other bands so it is hoped that this unfortunate mix can be avoided in future.

SILENT KEY

A belated phone call pointing out that G3ADZ passed away towards the latter end of July

CALL PREFERENCE CHANGE

Please note that Bryan, M0VAL, prefers to use his old call of G8AHU and this is now reflected in the listings.

It is also gratifying to note that the initial spate of call changes for the US gang (vanity calls) now seems to have subsided. We are still getting 'em but not in the numbers experienced when the scheme was first floated. Don't know about the boys in the Netherlands since we only have a handful of members.

CHRISTMAS STAMP

A special pictorial for Christmas was included on the envelope from OZ1EUO (Leif) which, he tells me, was created by HRH



Queen Margrethe of Denmark and in doing so, she has perpetuated a tradition of 100 years.

QRP

Although we still hear some rather unstable signals emanating from some hand rolled equipment, in the main the low power enthusiasts are getting much better. The Electra 'K' series and others are stable as rocks. A lot of good work is being done by G-QRP and other clubs for low power and standards continue to climb. Whilst it has always been FISTS policy to stay clear of the acknowledged QRP segments, it is more than a little disturbing to find them being hijacked by data modes.

THOSE SOLAR FLARES

Old Sol has been exhibiting symptoms of acute indigestion for some time now so I am grateful for the following item intercepted by WB2FXK:

CQ Propagation Editor Tomas Hood, NW7US, provides the following update on the unusual (historic) solar conditions of recent days:

I have just finished a talk with Christopher Balch from the Space Environment Center, NOAA, regarding the super flare from 1955Z, 4-XI-2003. This flare saturated the instruments on the observing satellites for about 13 minutes, during the peak of the flare. This has made an accurate measurement of the flare's intensity difficult. The instruments stopped at X17.4.

The scientists and engineers who designed the original sensor equipment back in the 1970's had events that caused saturations at much lower levels. They redesigned things to handle X17-class events, thinking that it would be enough. This time, it was not.

Since we do not have any accurate record of flare intensity prior to the 1970's, our perspective of this latest series of flares is somewhat limited. Certainly, X-class flares of this magnitude are not regular events. But, they certainly are not unheard of. To pull out a rough estimate, but with very little confidence on this number, on how often we might see such activity, we think this is something we could see every 20 to 40 years.

Currently, as I write this, the Space Environment Center, who is the official "last word" on what a flare's classification becomes, is finalizing their analysis on this super flare. Chris has obtained two likely candidates: Using a standard log-normal fit analysis, the flare was X25. Using a result from an individual from the University of Colorado, Boulder, who analyzed HESSI data on the event (<http://hessi.ssl.berkeley.edu/>), the flare was an X28. The SEC has a procedure that Chris is finalizing, and validating. He will announce the final reading later today. Most likely, this flare will be somewhere between the X25 and X30 levels.

Certainly, the geomagnetic storming of the last few weeks is one of the highest in many years. It is officially number six on the scale of intensity in the last 30 years. The two major sunspot groups, the number of flares, and the CME activity makes this period the most active and intense of this solar cycle. We have witnessed a truly spectacular historical moment.

What's coming down the line? I usually base my forecasts on a 27-day solar rotation period. What happens today in terms of geomagnetic activity is possibly what will occur 27 days from now. Of course, sunspot and coronal hole activity might decline during that rotation period. The outlook is that in about 5 to 10 days, a sunspot group that had a lot of activity is going to rotate back around and start to influence space weather. But the big question is: Will these huge sunspot groups that just left us retain enough energy to last the 27-day rotation, to deliver another period of extreme solar weather?

NASA is planning to launch in November 2005 the "Stereo Mission" (<http://stereo.jhuapl.edu/mission/overview.html>) which will place an observing space craft leading the Earth's orbit, and another space craft trailing the Earth, such that they will be able to see around the sun at what is coming and what has went. This certainly will become a major tool in our forecasting of space weather, and propagation. I will post my propagation forecast on <http://prop.hfradio.org/> late today.

73 de Tomas, NW7US (AAR0JA/AAM0EWA)

MORSUM MAGNIFICAT

Sadly, unless someone else turns up to take over the magazine, the final issue (Nr 89) will be published early 2004.

Morsum Magnificat was first published as a quarterly magazine in Holland in 1983, by the late Rinus Hellemons, PA0BFN. It has been produced four, then six times a year in Britain since 1986 and up to January, 1999 was published and edited by Tony Smith, G4FAI, and Geoff Arnold, G3GSR. Its preparation and publication was then taken over by Mr. Nilski, who has continued to provide international coverage of all aspects of Morse telegraphy, past, present and future. MORSUM MAGNIFICAT is for all Morse enthusiasts,

amateur or professional, active or retired. It brings together material which would otherwise be lost to posterity, providing an invaluable source of interest, reference and record relating to the traditions and practice of Morse. The magazine publishes feature articles and reminiscences on Morse history, as well as showcase photographs of old and modern devices and illustrative schematic diagrams.

MORSE TUTORS

Chris, G3TUX, must have forgotten they existed but clearing space below stairs in preparation for some plumbing work he dug up a batch of Morse Tutors which he commissioned many years ago.

He has kindly donated these to the club with the recommendation that they be disposed of at a moderate fee (say £10.00 plus £1.00 for postage etc).

It is amazing just what can be done with a square inch of pcb. The tutors sport two push buttons - one of which is the programmer and the other a <ENTER> function and whilst initially a little confusing, a few minutes spent reading the instructions makes all clear and they work fine.

The programming modes:

Mode 1 plays random code continuously and can be filtered for different speeds and character sets.

Mode 2 is used to test the users' accuracy by copying random code for several minutes and having it checked against the answer sheet.

Mode 3 is a standard QSO

Mode 4 is as mode 3 which can be checked against an answer key but unfortunately the printed version is not available.

Mode 5 is an interactive mode which allows the user to either trigger the next character or repeat the last one (very useful for the raw beginner).

Mode 6 is the random word group mode which plays a variety of words.

There is also a mini-jack for connecting a key and all tutors come with a wandering ear piece. The usual PP3 battery is required of course.

QSOs sound a little odd since the builder was not a radio amateur so you get odd reports like 711 (heaven only knows what readability 7 is or indeed what a T1 must sound like) and there are some mighty strange callsigns in the QSOs but for this small cost, they will prove useful to those of you with students who can literally plug in and listen at any time of their choosing (even perched on the throne).

I have been through some of the QSOs and groups/words but it is something of a chore so I must ask that the purchaser run these and print it out for his/her student.

Pse phone/email first to confirm availability.

RESURRECT OR RE-ENGINEER

Tom, G3RFE, responded to my general call mid month with a QRP signal from the TX side of a clandestine transceiver. Whilst there has been much refurbishing and repair of original clandestine equipment over the years, this one was a different scene since he constructed a WW2 "Paraset" from scratch. It really is the basics with three metal valves (two in the regenerative RX and one in the crystal controlled oscillator and PA). and Tom adhered strictly to the circuit for authenticity and a desire to get the real 'feel'

Not sure if Tom was copying me on the RX section also but whilst it would be well capable of copying weak signals, the regenerative receiver was always a bit of a beast, demanding that the operator had a touch like a midwife.

The circuit demanded keying the oscillator which caused some clipping on transmit though his fears of chirping were largely unfounded since this was minimal.

The original was used by special agents in occupied European countries and I fear there will be few of them still in caring hands and even though as I remarked, the clipping would have restricted speed, it was still very nice to have heard what wartime operators would have needed to handle.

TESTS A TELFORD

The RSGB will begin holding Morse competency tests in the month of December. Even though a knowledge of Morse code is

no longer required for access to the HF bands, there is continuing interest in learning Morse and improving skills. To promote such activities, Morse tests at 5 words per minute will be held at the Society's AGM, at Telford on the 6th of December. These will be carried out by the First Class CW Operators' Club, FOC, in conjunction with the RSGB. Registration will be at the door, and certificates will be presented to successful candidates. During 2004, a range of Morse training, tests and awards will be introduced by the Society, in cooperation with FOC and other organisations.

The above is the text for GB2RS for Sunday, 16 November and it was followed a couple of days later by a letter from Mary, G0BQV indicating that she is sitting on the FOC committee specifically with this initiative in mind.

Mary, also a member of FISTS, was aware of the item in last months' Keynote

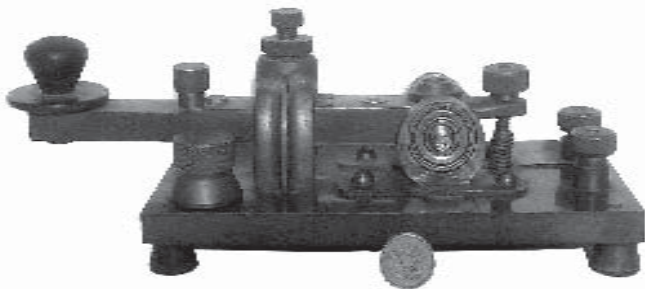
Well it is a start but I sure do need more input from you and especially from those members who were part of the RSGB Morse Test Service. We need more such facilities especially at smaller, less publicised events. Whilst the GB2RS item specifies 5 wpm, supplementary certificates at higher speeds would be very desirable. A large percentage of those who claim a 5 wpm certificate at one of the available venues will be keen to repeat it the following year at a higher speed so the scheme will be regenerative and dynamic.

If you regularly attend rallies in your area, please contact others (not necessarily members of either FISTS or FOC) with a view to assembling teams. I can then forward such information to Mary. If you are keen to put something back into the hobby from which you derive such pleasure then give your upholstery a rest and sound out like minded folks in your club or area. Contact the rally organisers with a view to providing facilities and publicising the availability of such. As with the success of evil, the surest way to ensure the demise of CW is to do nothing!

MYSTERY KEY??

I tried our resident expert Tony, G4FAI, but this one had him stumped. G3RSP has spread it over the back of his correspondence as an A4 image which impressed me so, if anyone out there knows its lineage pse LMK.

It certainly looks to be nicely balanced and must be quite satisfying to use.



DELIBERATE QRM?

We have all I am sure experienced it. There you are having a nice ragchew, the signals are around S7 both ways and suddenly someone starts tuning up zero beat.

It is rarely malicious however. Usually someone has just switched on or QSY'd from another band and they feel they would like to either chip in or tail-end. The answer of course is to tune up temporarily on a clear adjacent frequency but a couple of watts from the guy down the road is frequently enough to disrupt a QSO completely. Not that many members are guilty of this happily but if you think you are then please use a dummy load or at least an un-occupied QRG. Tnks.

SUBS AND OTHER STUFF

Every so often, an envelope arrives which puts me in a bit of a quandry. This usually involves over-payment sometimes by as much as the subscription itself but with no indication of what I am required to do with the excess. Double subs are treated as two years of course lacking further instructions and any lesser sums are treated as donations. It would help a lot if members would include a short note to guide me.

Please be aware that although sponsored stations are cross re-

ferred within your record, I am not really looking for that when updating, my prime target being the renewal date and its incrementation by whatever figure is appropriate so it is possible that if no option is offered that this connection may well be missed.

I normally acknowledge donations with a snail mail listing though I realise it is not a lot of use to those who are QRV on the web and can download one from the website so again, an indication here would help.

ACTIVITY LADDER OCTOBER

Call.	Points	Call.	Points.
G4LHI	49	G4LHI	498
HB9CHE	30	M0AYI	281
M0RHB	27	M5ABN	268
OH7QR	26	G3VQO	260
M0AYI	16	G0MRH	214
M5AGL	16	G4AQZ	214
M0DRK	14	M0RHB	185
M5BRY	10	M5AGL	183
M0CMQ	6	HB9CHE	159
M5ABN	6	OH7QR	149
G8XGQ	4	M0DRK	129
		M0CMQ	91
		M5BRY	50
		G8XGQ	32
		G0SOP	24
		GW0SGG	17
		M3GBT	13
		G0XAH	10

Peter again tops the points which were hard to find.

It's very nice to see HB9CHE Erich 2nd M0RHB Rod 3rd and OH7QR Erkki 4th in the placings for the first time well done. It's a pity we can't have a few more of our continental members joining in. 73 fer nw de Bob M5AGL.

NEW MEMBERS

09857	IZ0CWN	Vincent	09858	PA0FAW	Fred
09859	GM0HMR	Stuart	09860	M1FFO	Sandy
09861	M3BDU	Arthur	09862	M0DHN	Glyn
09863	2E0AOG	Gary	09864	GW4ZWO	Ade
09865	G0OUD	Stuart	09866	G3PNU	Ted

Note that Vincent, IZ0CWN, has an alternative call WB4QJO and PA0FAW also holds M0AJY

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G0EOK. Handwriting says Paul resembles the meandering of an ink loaded spider so he is doing battle with a PC (there appears to be no peace pact between them at present) and printer. Not too active at the moment and thoughts of a loop antenna shoved on the back burner since his doublet continues to surprise him with results. **G3TEV.** Mike is QSL manager for 9J2BO and shares my frustration of folks who request a QSL but fail to appreciate that he is not a charity. I keep carping on about this Mike and you would be surprised at the number of enquiries arriving here which are not accompanied by return stamp or IRC. He talks to Brian almost every day so can offer a fast turn round of cards. Condx have been frustrating his regular skeds with G3IYC (now in VK) which have been well established for over 11 years now with long path on 15m. **G4AQZ.** The spectre of TV+VCR raises its head with Geoff and this is compounded by young neighbours who invested no less than £3,000 on a 42 inch screen and all that comes with it. Whew! His letter however is accompanied by an app for his Platinum award. Well done. **G0PEH.** Took a trip to Tonys' web page <<http://mysite.freemove.com/swaleradioclub>> which was assembled by Marion - his better half. **G4XPE.** Mike ran up a log periodic for 6m, 2m and 70cm but is of the opinion that its performance is little better than the proverbial piece of wet string. He now runs a colinear for 2m/70cm with an indoor dipole for 6m. Opines that when 6m is open, a piece of wet string would suffice anyway. How many times have I heard this one? Hard drive went belly up and guess who had not backed up? Lesson duly learned but how many more are set to fall into the trap I wonder. Hi. **G0BYA.** Stan has been going through a stony patch of ground. His XYL Nora needed a replacement shoulder joint but, credit where it is due,

the NHS had her home and mobile again within four days. Just to prove that he could go one better, he had a 'mini stroke' a few weeks ago but happily there is no permanent damage.

G3TUX

The QRP Component Company For Kits, Keys and QRP

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

Used keys of all types bought and sold. SAE or IRC for current list of stock or email <sales@g3tux.co.uk>

PO Box 88, HASLEMERE, GU27 2RF
Phone 01428-661501 FAX 07974 214320

OOOOOPS!

Who's a clever boy then? Cutting and pasting from the file provided by Bob (M5AGL), I must have missed something out. Suffice it to say that the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for the SKW were way out. Sorry fellas! Put the certs away till next Guy Fawkes night. I await confirmation from Bob when the errors will be corrected.

NO CODE DEBATE

With the continuing wrangling over the IARU decision, John, G3SJE, when the no code decision coincided with his 2,000th Morse practice transmission and 2,700 hours of such service under the flag of the RSGB.

Having begun in 1966 he often pondered the question considering the audience of whether it was all worth it. Transmission took place on 160 and 2m for maximum local coverage. He laments the fact that the RSGB seems to have taken no interest in the GB2RS transmissions and in fact, there is not even a coordinator listed in the annual report (Nov Radcom). He has thus far not heard a word from the Society about GB2RS and the future. At least there has been no hint of abandoning the special limited broadcast facilities under the GB2RS banner. He has decided to continue and having asked on air it was a gratifying surprise to hear from a number M3 foundation licencees and ex-class 'B' holders that they would like to develop a reasonable proficiency in Morse, an attitude which John feels needs encouragement. There are also quite a few full (class 'A') licence holders who whilst not being particularly keen CW operators, do like to keep their Morse well dusted. These comments are not strictly local as they come from various parts of the country.

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/~gzpy/index.htm>

M3 AND CHELMSFORD AWARD

It caught my eye in Radcom - a picture of M3CAM holding his Chelmsford award. The important bit though was that it was obtained entirely in CW. From the article, he seems happy at up to 20 wpm.

I have checked my log and he does not appear there sadly but who knows, he may well fall into my web and more importantly he could be an inspiration to others to whom Morse has been a hurdle.

The early days of the foundation licence saw many tutors offer coaching in CW but from all accounts with limited success so

this is an encouraging pointer.

THE MUSICALLY INCLINED



There are many of our members with a musical background - classical and otherwise - so I am delighted to add an intro to CO6TM. Apart from amateur radio, he is part of the Symphonic Orchestra of Santa Clara.

Currently he is restricted to one band only (40m) so we hope he will soon be active on the remaining HF bands.

My apologies for the piccy people.... it is the best I could do with a truly horrendous postage stamp sized offering but I thought you may well be interested in the strange shaped key he is holding.

LATE NEWS FROM M0AVW

Chuck asks me to advise you of a change of call for John from M3HEM to M0HEM.

He would also like to thank those of you who send used stamps. It seems that Chuck's local church has benefited greatly from your efforts.

He has also had complaints (nil received here at HQ though) that some members are ignoring requests to QRS. This attitude is self defeating. If we are to foster greater use of CW on the bands then it is up to us all to bend a little.

FINALE

Sorry, I simply cannot write any further in this letter but I am sure you will forgive me.

My XYL Ivy was again admitted to hospital on Sunday 16 November where it was discovered that the lower part of her leg had been affected by gangrene. This was brought on by diabetes of course and under normal circumstances, an amputation would have been performed but due to her age (79 years), an unstable heart and general physical condition, this was not possible.

A telephone call was received indicating that I must prepare for the worst and she passed away late morning of 20 November. She had been under the influence of morphine from shortly after the time of her admittance and so was released from pain.

Morse and my work for FISTS not only serves to keep me from vegetating in front of the TV, it keeps my rapidly diminishing grey cells from disappearing altogether so despite the occasional frustrations and bog-ups, life will continue very much as it did before.

I must take this opportunity of wishing you all a very merry Christmas and, if it is not stretching optimism to its limits, my hope that 2004 will prove a more peaceful year than this one.

73/88 my friends. Have a good one and hopefully will see you with M5AGL's Christmas Challenge (Dec 21 to Jan 3).

Geo