



We hope a lot of us in this frat party.  
F5SGI (Jean-Marc) be active from Groix Island, EU-048 and DIFM AT-012, CW only, on 13-19 April. QSL sure via bureau, or direct.

On January 2003, 4th and 5th, will be held the second European CW Contest on 160m.

This contest is sponsored by the French EUCW Society Union Francaise des Telegraphistes UFT.

This contest is OPEN, so, even if your friends or yourself are not EUCW Society's members all of you can enter this contest. A separate classification with reward, will be done for .

You can find the complete rules of this contest written in six languages on the following web sites :

<http://www.uft.net>

<http://www.f5yj.net>

<http://perso.club-internet.fr/jacar>

You can read the English rules at :

<http://www.agcw.de/eucw/eucw.html>

All the above info from our ever vigilant Maurice, F5NQL.

### NORTHAMPTON RC

Northampton Radio Club is now compiling it's 2003 events program and I am writing to ask you if you would consider providing a speaker to give a presentation about your group at one of our club evenings. Northampton Radio Club, one of the oldest radio clubs in the UK, meets every Thursday Evening in Northampton.

A talk of 30, 45 or 60 minutes would be wonderful and we would provide light refreshments afterwards. We would, of course, re-imburse any out-of-pocket expenses. Northampton has a thriving amateur radio community and the club has members from Wellingborough, Kettering and other areas too.

A talk about your group would be of great interest to our members and would give your organisation the opportunity to publicise it's activities and, perhaps, gain new members from the Northamptonshire region.

This from M0CTC, Secretary of the club who can be contacted on 07111-093390 if any member local to the area would like to oblige.

### M0AVW

Chuck asks me to thank those of you who continue to send used postage stamps and also for the large volume of Christmas greetings he received. GW4PUC was the recipient of his award for 2002 acknowledging helpful sorting of submitted QSL cards. Son Nathan (10 yrs) appeared on TV. 3rd prize in mass competition against others much older than himself.

### UT4FJ

Jerry, ex UR5FDM, is out of Ukraine now. Unfortunately, I have lost communications with him for the moment. His call is recently reissued to another person. But I still collect all FISTS Newsletters in e-form and can forward copies for Jerry, if he will be back in Odessa.

It seems, I have won the RSGB Jubilee 2002 contest in overseas CW only assisted section. Thanks to all the FISTS members who worked with me and gave me a good chance to win :).

73! Alex UT4FJ, FISTS #678

Thank you for the info Alex and I must confess that it comes as a surprise that call signs can be re-issued there.

### EUCW QRS

To encourage newcomers to Morse operating, and as a contribution to the activities of the European CW Association, FISTS CW Club invites all licensed radio amateurs, especially members of EUCW clubs, to take part in the annual EUCW/FISTS QRS Party.

This event provides an opportunity for EUCW club members, and non-members, to meet and exchange greetings with each other at a leisurely pace. At the same time it is an opportunity to make contacts qualifying for the prestigious Worked EUCW award.

Although not a contest in the normal sense of the word, there is a contest element for those who thrive on challenge, with awards for those who score the most points, and a merit award for the "Most Readable Morse Heard" voted for by other contestants. In this event, taking part is more important than winning, provid-

ing fun for all in a non-stressful introduction to a contest-like event for beginners, and an opportunity for more experienced operators to put something back into the hobby by helping and encouraging those less experienced in CW operating.

Feedback can only be obtained from contestants' reports so, whatever your level of experience, and even if you only have time to make a few contacts, please make an effort to send in a log.

DATES/TIMES: From 00.01 UTC on the fourth Sunday in April, for one week, to 23.59 UTC on the following Saturday. For 2002, the dates will be Sunday 28th to Saturday 4th May.

MODE: CW only.

FREQUENCIES: All bands, except WARC bands. Non-QRP stations are requested to avoid calling CQ on the popular QRP frequencies.

KEYS/SPEEDS: Any type of key or keyer may be used, but no keyboard sending or pre-programmed messages from computers or keyers allowed. Maximum speed 14 words per minute (70 cpm). The speed of a QSO should be at the speed of the slower station

CALL: CQ QRS/EUCW. Stations may be worked or logged once each day in each band used

EUCW CLUBS: Listen out for members of the following clubs, taking part in the EUCW/FISTS QRS Party:

AGCW-DL (Germany); Benelux-QRPC; BTC (Belgium); CFT (Belgium); CT-CWC (Portugal); EA-QRPC (Spain); EHSC (Extremely High Speed Club); FISTS; FOC (First Class Operators); G-QRP; GTC (Greece); HACWG (Hungary); HCC (Spain); HSC (High Speed Club); HTC (Switzerland); INORC (Italy); I-QRPC (Italy); ITC (Italy); MCWG (Macedonia); OE-CWG (Austria); OHTC (Finland); OK-QRPC (Czech Republic); RTC (former GDR); SCAG (Scandinavia); SHSC (Super High Speed Club); SP-CWC (Poland); UCWC (Russia); UFT (France); U-QRQC (Ukraine); VHSC (Very High Speed Club); YL-CW-GP (Germany); 3A-CW-G (Monaco); 9ACWG (Croatia).

CLUB MEMBERSHIP: Entrants who are members of more than one EUCW club should take part in the QRS party as a member of only one of those clubs.

### CLASSES:

A - Members of EUCW clubs using more than 10w input or 5w output power

B - Members of EUCW clubs using QRP (10w input or 5w output, or less)

C - Non-members of EUCW clubs using any power

D - Shortwave listeners

### EXCHANGES:

Class A & B, RST/QTH/Name/Club/membership number

Class C, RST/QTH/Name/NM (ie, not a member)

Class D, Log information for both stations

### SCORING:

Class A/B/C - 1 point per QSO with own country, 3 points per QSO with other European countries.

Class D - 3 points for every complete logged QSO.

Multiplier, all classes: 1 multiplier point for each EUCW-club worked/logged per day and band.

LOGS: To include date, UTC, band, call worked, info sent, info received, and score claimed for each QSO

SUMMARY: To include entrant's full name, call, address, EUCW club, Class entered, multiplier claimed, total points claimed, station details, including type of key/keyer used, power used, comments (if any) on the event, up to three votes for "Most Readable Morse Heard" (only one vote per station), and signature of entrant.

E-mailed logs and summaries are acceptable, provided they follow the same format as detailed above.

ENTRIES: Send log and summary to:

FISTS/EUCW Contest Manager,

Keith Farthing, M0CLO,

86, Coldnailhurst Avenue,

Braintree, Essex, CM7 5PY,

England. keithm0clo@hotmail.com

All logs to be received

or e-mail to: not later than 31st May.

### AWARDS:

a) A certificate will be awarded to the three top scorers in each

class.

b) A certificate of merit will be awarded to the operator receiving most votes for the "Most Readable Morse Heard", provided the operator nominated has also submitted a log. If the recipient of the most votes has not submitted a log the certificate of merit will be awarded to the qualifying entrant with the next highest number of votes. In the event of a tie multiple certificates will be awarded, endorsed "Shared Award".

No correspondence can be entered into. The Contest Manager's decision shall be final in making all awards.

### M5AGL

Thank you to everyone who took part in last years activity ladder and the SKW. The new Ladder for 2003 now takes place on the last sunday of the month and is open to all members so, if you sent in a log or just gave points to those taking part in the contest, please can we have your support again. All logs can be sent by post or email to me.

Do spread the word about our contests to other members and please remember these contests are meant to be friendly fun and promote the CW so rubber stamp QSOs are not encouraged. The full list of contests for 2003 is now available from our (EU) web page where all results will be published in addition to Key-note.

Good luck to all and I hope to meet you on the key during 2003 73 de Bob, M5AGL (Contest Manager).

### MORSE PRACTICE

*You will be pleased to know that I am now formally registered with the RSGB as a foundation lead instructor for Hampshire who can also conduct the CW assessment.*

*I promise the CW bit will not be at 20 wpm for those of faint heart and I have purchased a nice little straight key for the students to use if they don't have their own for the assessment, and its all looking good.*

*Courses will invariably be at weekends, and as I am currently teaching three students for the full licence, I shall not be starting any other courses (i.e. foundation) until at least Easter.*

*Email contact is instructor@ASEL.demon.co.uk or andy.digby@mail.com*

*Morse continues to be sent on 3.595 (or LF by 5 or 10 depending on QRM) Mon - Thurs from my /p location in Epsom. Next transmission is set for Mon 6th Jan 2003. Listen out for my call to G0LOG and then QRL QRL etc.*

*I am currently using the Farnsworth method, with inter-character spacing equivalent to 20 wpm and a nice long thinking gap between characters which brings the overall Tx speed down to the required 5 wpm. This will be incrementally increased to reach a full 20 wpm over the next few weeks for those that want a bit more than the minimum test speed.*

*73's Andy Digby - G0JLX*

### THE IN-BOX

Other traffic in my in-box has been dealt with previously leaving the following outstanding:

*In your KEYNOTE news could you squeeze a few words of praise for the CLUB team at KG4VLC Member stn 9450. They first appeared with their brand new FISTS number on 28/11/02 and returned with a shiny new cc number on 24/12/02 - most commendable. Can any operator or group do the same inside 21 days I wonder? Or has it already been done and went unnoticed? 'Alf' Ramsey (G3UAA) FISTS 5519. Now perhaps Bob (G0FRL) has a better memory than me but I have a sneaking fancy that a CC claim was returned within a week.*

*Hi Geo,*

*We have a great news that our member Yang / BV2WG, the chief of North Branch of CTARL, passed the 60WPM examination for the 1st class grade of Taiwan. Now his new callsign is 'BX2AG. BV2WS / Chung*

### NEW MEMBERS

The period over Christmas/New Year was thankfully fairly quiet but the following new numbers were issued:

8984	G0STK	Allan	8985	G3JFS	Peter
8986	RX3AP	Yri	8987	I1LGR	Luigi
8988	G0SOP	Andy	8989	M3NHJY	Keith
8991	IE5EM	Tony	8990	will be re-issued asap.	

## 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

### AWARDS MANAGER

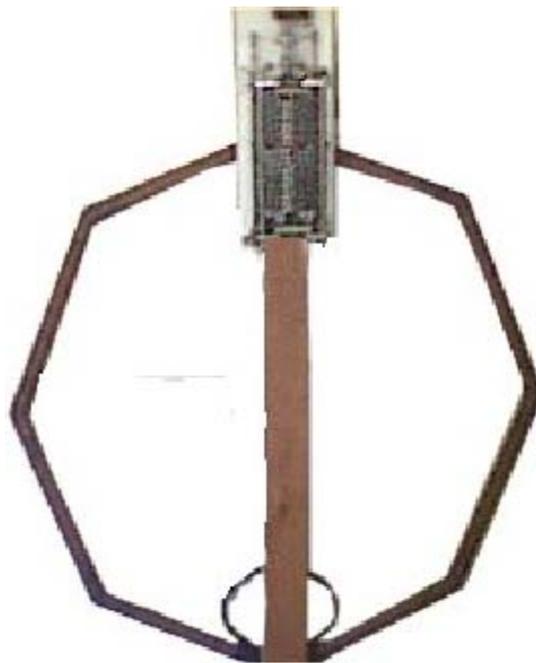
Sorry but I find it necessary to remind you that the awards manager is Dennis, K6DF. This has been so for over a year now but Bob, G0FRL continues to receive claims. As indicated on the banner, your claims may be e-mailed to <fistawards@attbi.com> or written claims direct to myself in which case I will advise Dennis via e-mail. There is no charge but those who add a couple of quid as a donation are not spurned. Hi.

#### And stamps for lists.

We are getting pretty close to excess postage these days with 16 pages but the request for 3 2nd class stamps covers this eventuality with the excess stamps helping offset the cost of printing.

### MAG LOOP

It is amazing what can be done with a length of copper tubing and a bit of spare timber. This loft-bound creation covers 20-10 metres and the constructor (G4KKI) plans another version resonant on 80/40/30. Already the basic loop in 22mm tubing spanning 6.5 feet is awaiting the 1000pf variable. He is getting a great deal of satisfaction from the current loop which (due to the limitations of the capacitor) is restricted to 20W.



### SCIENCE WEEK 2003

A reminder from the RSGB of the above arrived in the pre-Christmas post. It is undoubtedly an ideal opportunity for your local Amateur Radio Club to bring our hobby to the attention of the public.

The once exciting 'mystique' of radio communication has been dulled through modern techniques. Anyone these days can go to a local source and for a relatively small sum walk out with a mobile telephone which, if you are prepared to fork out the funds, will enable instant communication almost anywhere in the world. We live in an age where information technology is commonplace; where the processes which allow us to shift

megabytes of data in digital form within a time span measured in seconds is almost taken for granted. Are there any surprises left in the field of communication? There will surely be more. Processors now drive your home computer at speeds unimaginable a couple of decades ago and digital technology now gives us noise free, high speed radio and television. Broad band telecommunication although in relative infancy, has spawned modems which handle traffic at dizzying speeds compared to those in use only a few short years previous.

So what reason could there possibly be for the existence of Amateur Radio? The same reason that inspires millions of people to gather up interlocking lengths of split bamboo every weekend and sit shivering on a river bank when their quarry is available pre-packed at the local supermarket. The same urge that causes untold numbers to balance on thin sheets of steel at the ice rink and go absolutely nowhere whilst their personal four-wheeled steed waits in the car park. It is basic, it is FUN.

Yes, that is the magic word I am sure and GB4FUN will be abroad in our towns and cities during March to engage toddlers and wrinkles alike and prove that re-inventing the wheel can be a whole lot of joy.

Science week runs from 7/16 March and whether you endeavour to involve your local club or go it alone, help is available from <[www.rsgb.org/scienceweek](http://www.rsgb.org/scienceweek)>.

## 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](mailto:g4zpy@lineone.net)

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

### ACTIVITY FROM SENEGAL

*Hi Friends. Norbert, F6AXX and Anne Marie will be vacationing in Senegal from Jan 25 to Feb 7 in Saly area.*

*The callsign is 6W7/F6AXX and they will be QRV mainly during mornings and evenings on 14035, 18090, 21035, 24105 and 28035. QSL via F6AXX. Further info about Saly and amateur radio activity in Senegal at <[www.pleinsud.online.fr/ra.htm](http://www.pleinsud.online.fr/ra.htm)> in the French language.*

My thanks again to Maurice, F5NQL. He certainly keeps his ear to the ground and these little snippets are I am sure, most appreciated.

### THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

**G4LJU.** Colin spent three weeks in Malta during November with a portable Sony receiver. Heard lots of CW with (not surprisingly) 9H1EL working the DX on 40m via the telescopic whip. Notes the absence of 'lager louts' on the island - a fact which perhaps the Maltese tourist industry could use to good advantage? **G14CFQ.** An ancient FT200 and a sloper comprises the business end of a dedicated 20m station. Over the past 2 years, Gary has worked over 130 countries 'without really trying' and shedding his previous SSB activity pattern, is happy to declare himself 100% CW. CQ de Call/QRP means (or should mean) "I am QRP" whilst CQ QRP" indicates that the calling station is seeking QRP contacts. Happy with the Schurr paddles and Petterson pump handle. **G3GUR.** Our John sends a photo copy of a confirmatory letter from the British Wireless for the Blind Fund acknowledging his efforts and declaring that he has won a Roberts SSB R9914 Receiver for raising the most money as an individual supporter. A late cheque brought his total to a very impressive £750.50. Well done John. He also points me in the direction of a book "The Victorian Internet" by Tom Standage which fascinated him and causes him to recommend it to anyone who can get hold of it. **MOTDL** Charles is undertaking a QSY in Jan/Feb 2003 and is considering the likelihood of going QRT since all his efforts to QSO anyone have borne little or no fruit. He operates 2 and 6m only and is suspicious that his QRS is the

cause of the negative response. Don't think that is the case Charles. Perhaps you would be better looking into the likelihood that either rig or antenna is not performing? **MOECS.** Confessing that his tally of contacts is not too impressive, he nevertheless derives great pleasure from those that fall into his log. Feeling somewhat embarrassed by the standard of English from many areas of the continent, he has learned to send "Merry Christmas and a happy New Year" in over 350 languages. I also use crib sheets Steve which are called up from my computer log but these are restricted to perhaps half a dozen lingos and are used with caution since I share the embarrassment of other members when their contact assumes they are fully conversant with the alternative language and complete the QSO in a cryptic form. Hi. **MOAIR.** Stephen, having found that QRO tends to have an adverse effect on various domestic electrical installations (including the central heating), has equipped the shack with QRP. He has never heard discouraging comments from stations who find his flea powered signal difficult to copy whilst on the other hand, using SSB he was frequently 'dropped'. Yes there is a difference but, as they say in the badlands, 'There's nowt as queer as folk'.

### NOV-02 LADDER

November Call	Score	Yearly Call	Total
G4LHI	168	G4LHI	2101
M5ABM	85	G0SCP	2048
G0MRH	71	M5ABN	891
G3VQO	51	M0DRK	226
M0DRK	30	G3VQO	220
M0RHB	22	G0MRH	198
HB9CHE	19	GW0SGG	180
M0CMQ	18	M5AGL	177
OH7QR	18	M3GBT	139
M3GBT	14	OH7QR	129
M5AGL	10	HB9CHE	118
M5BRY	6	M0CMQ	109
M3XGQ	2	M0RHB	39
G0SCP	0	M3XGQ	12
GW0SGG	0	M5BRY	6

and the results for December

G4LHI	151	G4LHI	2252
M5ABN	80	G0SCP	2048
G0MRH	70	M5ABN	971
HB9CHE	45	G0MRH	268
M3GBT	39	M0DRK	264
M0DRK	38	G3VQO	255
G3VQO	35	M5AGL	193
M0RHB	24	GW0SGG	180
M0CMQ	22	M3GBT	178
OH7QR	22	HB9CHE	163
M5AGL	16	OH7QR	151
M5BRY	14	M0CMQ	131
M2XGQ	4	M0RHB	63
G0SCP	0	M5BRY	20
GW0SGG	0	M3XGQ	18

Congratulations to Peter G4LHI 1<sup>st</sup>, Tom G0SCP 2<sup>nd</sup>, Peter M5ABN 3<sup>rd</sup>, who will in due course receive their certificates. On behalf of myself and the past two contest managers, thanks to all those who have submitted logs and to those members who came on air to give points to the above entrants. Please remember the new ladder is now on the last Sunday of each month and a full list of our contests for 2003 is on the Fists HQ home web page or from myself, please include a stamp addressed envelope. Have a good year and I hope to catch you on the key during 2003.

73's de Bob M5AGL.

### FINALE

G0JOH was inadvertently allocated a new number (8990) when in fact he was a re-join. Any members logging him with that number pse ammend to read 2282.

Chaos reigned during the past month. The colour printer went belly up and I spent the best part of a week fixing it and Ivy is back in hospital (regular evening visits mandatory) 73/88 people. Have fun and stay sober. Geo..