

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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<http://www.ase1.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> <http://www.fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>

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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

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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.freemove.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

Heck! How long is it gonna take for old Sol to settle down a bit? The bands have been all but useless of late and S8 noise levels certainly don't help. There is activity however on 40m during the day and of course 80m during the evening but generally it is rough going. Couple the weather conditions with the state of the bands and you get a pretty dismal outlook and it is largely due to this that I have begun to develop square eyes these days. Chuck, M0AVW, has asked me to thank those of you who send in used postage stamps and to assure you that this is an ongoing project. Also, a request from what I assume to be his Ma in-law in the form of an email; signed 'Elaine' with an animated caricature of a witch and broomstick in flight:

I am hoping that some of your colleagues on the radio may be able to help me.

As you know, I am doing a course on Women's History at the

university, and at present, I am in the middle of a project on the wives of prisoners of war during WW2, and the effect that this had upon the lives of the wives and children, whilst their husbands were POW's. I am having quite a tough time gathering information, as sadly, so many of these women are no longer with us. I would be so grateful if anyone (female) would share with me, some of their experiences during this period of our history.

I must confess to being intrigued by the logo - looks like we have someone here with a sense of humour. Hi. Hope some of you folks can contribute the desired information.

SUBS VIA EMAIL

I know many of you have asked if it is possible to pay your subs via the web but hitherto I knew of no such procedure. However, a chance note from Nancy indicating that one of our Italian members erroneously submitted his subs to her by way of PAYPAL led me into a search.

It would seem that the scheme has been operating for some time though since I am far from being a 'browser' it is no surprise that it was missed. It was swallowed up by the ubiquitous E-Bay people since it offered a way for clients to pay for items in their auctions. The site is secure so there are no problems.

It is understood that all you need to do is join PayPal, enter the site and opt to make a payment. You will be asked for the email address of the recipient (in this case it is my own email address (fist1@btinternet.com), specify the amount in Sterling and that is it. I will be advised that payment has been made. There is a small charge levied against the club for the service.

This costs the you (the subscriber) nothing compared with the high penalty incurred when transferring funds from one account to another (especially when it involves a non-UK bank) but I also get immediate advice of the payment together with a history of payments in the form of an invoice page. Can't be bad!

The subject from last month remains a mystery since thus far, no-one has come up with an answer. Just to tease you further though I have another item.



This one (via Andy, G0JLX) at least has some ID since a brass plaque is in evidence on the front of the unit inscribed: A. Robinson & Co Ltd. Contractors to the British Admiralty and it strikes me as being a shame that such care has been taken on the engineering side with a design lacking in imagination.

I also found a number of keys on the e-bay website though none of 'em could be described as inspirational and remain convinced that aside from some recent offerings from Russia, the original Swedish key and my favourite RN (NATO) key top the list and of course with his current state of health, Zippy (G4ZPY) has a rather daunting backlog to contemplate.

RAOTA

Our David, G3ZPF, is webmaster for the Radio Amateur Old Timers Association and points the web aware to the website: <www.raota.supanet.com>. Sympathises with G4OWS since he also has 'floaters' in both eyes. Finds that driving more or less settles the swarm low in the field of vision whilst side-side head movements simply slosh 'em around horizontally but still low and out of harms way. He would have expected that vibrations from the fiddle under the chin would have the same effect but concludes that there must be some vertical element to his head movements. Strikes me that those thus afflicted should take care always to disagree since a sign of affirmation could produce a swarm and for heavens sake, stay off trampolines! He also warns that the report last month re passive cameras on road signs turned out to be a spoof but I am sure that the simple idea of timing the point of recognition on one camera with that of the next is surely one which will not be long ignored. Watch out - Big Brother will soon be timing you.

MORSE PROFICIENCY TESTS

G4BUO reported that Mary, G0BQU, has just dumped some 139 callsigns of ex-MTS volunteers into a spread sheet. He is currently checking the distribution and is hoping that some will be within striking range of Blackpool.

139 is an encouraging figure of course but there is no reason why a pool of available examiners could not exceed this by a magnitude of 10 or even more and, as G4KJJ pointed out, why stick at rallies. Local clubs could also do their part.

Currently there is a little uncertainty about whether tapes or computer generated text will be used - reckon it could be either one - but the certificates seem to be decided as 5, 10, 15 and 20, or even 25 wpm.

I am sure that a large number of the MTS volunteers will be drawn from the ranks of FISTS and when the scheme gets properly under way will prove a super flag-waving exercise for the club.

FURTHER RE PROFICIENCY TESTS

Among other correspondents, a note from G4KJJ who was kind enough to email me piccies of a QRP setup. The loop is about 33 inches per side and seemingly tuned with toroid and cap



I am afraid the full details are not available but it comes from the G-QRP club's SPRAT. The source is W9SCH, it is described as "The Rockloop" and it is intended to bounce on 30, 15 and 20m. If you need any further info on it I'm afraid you must dig into the SPRAT archives.

As you can well imagine, it has extremely low resistance and will demand a very slo-mo drive but John increased the cap to one of around 1200 pF for 40m and was delighted to complete a QSO with a very persistent German station.

He normally ran around 4 watts since the RX type cap started to arc at much higher power than this and although he is happier with his mag-loop (also low resistance but much higher 'Q') I suspect he has abandoned it.

Because of its size however, I think he had ideas of using a pair of such setups at rallies etc to demonstrate the potential of CW to the uninitiated. Worth a thought!

The Key incidentally comprises relay contacts and a trouser button amongst other things and cost him less than 50p. He declares it is virtually silent, smooth and a delight to use.



LADDER JAN/04

CALL	Points.
G4LHI	36
M5ABN	25
M0RHB	17
M5BRY	16
M3GBT	14
M0DRK	12
M5AGL	12
OH7QR	10
M0CMQ	8
G8XGQ	8
GU4HUY	4
2E0EUK	3

Another start to the ladder for 2004 and G4LHI tops the points for Jan. Its nice to see the 2 new participants GU4HUY and 2E0EUK, Lets hope the new format will encourage more of you to join in the ladder.

Don't for get the MIXED KEY WEEK 7 March 0001 utc to 2359 utc on 13th MARCH 04.

73's for now de Bob M5AGL.

Just to remind you of course that the 'mixed key week' is effectively the Straight Key Week but includes ALL non-electronic keying. I know at least a couple of members who will be delighted to activate their captive hacksaw blades and of course there are many others who revere their vibros.

AND THE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Call.	POINTS.
G4LHI	568
M5ABN	258
G0MRH	242
OH7QR	126
M5BRY	90
M0DRK	68
M5AGL	67

M0CMQ	47
M5ENM	18
G8XGQ	4

Congratulations to Peter G4LHI who tops the list. Peter was able to catch the UK, USA and Australian HQ club stations, the only three to count as 5 points.

My thanks to all those who took part and especially Chris VK3CGB and Dave VK3DBD who kindly Operated the Australian HQ club call, most mornings during the challenge. I have as yet not included the challenge in this years contest list as I did not want to over extend it, but if you would like it to be included then please let me know.

73's de Bob M5AGL.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G4FAI. Tony submits Officers for for the Norfolk Amateur Radio Group (GB2MC) at the Muckleburgh Collection these being *Chairman* M3BFU, *Secretary*, G4FAI and *Treasurer* G3MJX. Email contact is now g4fai@connectfree.co.uk. **PA3AFF.** This year, Piet represented FISTS in the EUCW 160m contest He found no others offering a FISTS club multiplier so maybe he was alone. Thanks for the entry Piet. He also did a cross check and found 40 calls that appear on both the HSC list and FISTS. **G4ZGP.** Geoff is still limited to his Capco 80cm mag-loop for 10-20m but sometimes uses his Vectronix tuner to to match a random wire to 40m. Always a pleasure to QSO Geoff. **GM3JUD.** Chas was tickled to find Chuck M0AVW with 500mW with that rockbound package from Stan K4UK. Meanwhile he has been delving into the realms of QRP himself with a single band TXCVR from Small Wonder Labs. With the wick turned down on his TS930, he worked OK1NR with 5 watts. **PA0HPV.** The last official CW exam took place in Holland on 16 Dec 2003 whilst the first was on 19 Aug 1929 - 74 years ago. After this final exam, a reception was held where speakers remembered historic moments and club officials presented the examination committee with trophies to mark the occasion. They even got a short (2.5 min) coverage on the TV news including video footage taken in the shack of PA0DIN explaining that Din prefers to "talk with his fingers". Finally, the equipment used for the exams was donated to the Jan Corver amateur radio museum in Bordel and he invites you to visit this site at <www.janconver.org>. **G4HVM.** Mike is amongst those who submitted their call to G4BUO as an ex member of the MTS. I agree that it is a shame that the usual MTS special event will not be running now - surely with the current list of folks such as Mike it would be no hardship for the RSGB to re-activate the event? **G4KJJ.** Further to the earlier item, the QRP TX shown was donated to G4LHI in acknowledgment of the 140+ bodies that he coaxed through the CW exam over the years. Nice gesture John.

G4ZPY

KEYS AND PADDLES

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e-mail: g4zpy@lineone.net

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

NEW MEMBERS

09876	G3ZOH	Brian	09877	IZ3ESV	Tony
09878	MW3RPK	Henry	09879	G4TPV	George
09880	9A6NKN	Milan	09881	G4MSQ	Frik
09888	G4MTQ	Tony	09882	M0KEY	Bary

G4MTQ specifically requested 09888 so for the moment is out of sequence.

No! G4MSQ and G4MTQ is not an error. It is the first time such a coincidence has happened.

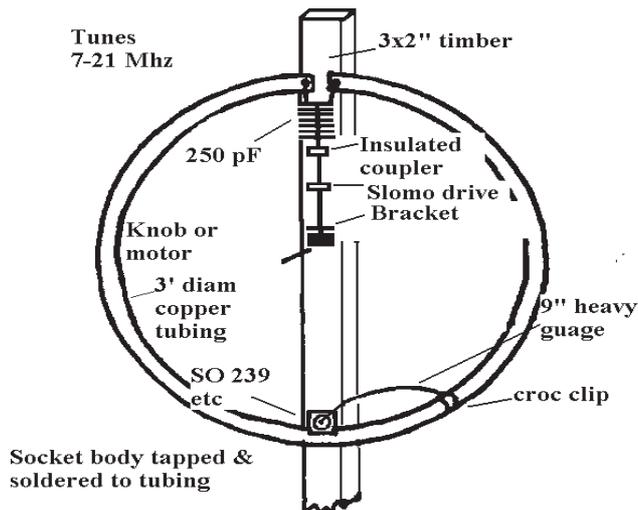
THE MAG-LOOP REVISITED

I was unaware of the connection until G4KJJ sent me paperwork and included was an article (presumably from a local club newsletter, linking Tom GM3HBT with it.

The construction as you can see is quite straightforward but instead of the Faraday loop, it is fed with a gamma match. I had noticed this before on some of the sites I visited on the web but forgot to mention it.

Tom intimates that it may be a little difficult to set up - it's all a matter of moving a croc clip and tuning the variable to get minimum vswr and the gamma feed point can then be permanently soldered.

A 3ft diameter may appear a little generous but remember that it is intended to bounce on 40m with a 250pF variable cap.



FROM THE IN BOX

Josh 6Y5WJ has been busy revamping his property out there in Jamaica and should be finished by April when he can accept more FISTS guests.

Dave G3KMG spent some time with Jackie 3B8CF in Mauritius following his escapades in ZL. Some nice piccies included but as always, embedde graphics are a lousy 75dpi and not suitable for printing in Keynote.

Paul NG7Z says that Bob Doherty K1VV has made available a fascinating video of the C2C contest as experienced on the USS Salem K1USN. This is a heavy cruiser brought to pasture as a museum ship in Quincy MA which is also the home of the US Ship building museum.

Paul says he can burn a CD (runs on Windows Media player) for anyone interested though his anticipated costs of \$1.00 will be based on US mail. He can be contacted at ng7z@arrl.com and is OK for paypal.

160M EUCW CONTEST

the UFT claimed great success for this event 21 EUCW Societies took part: YLCWG, IQRP, OKQRP, GQRP, CTC, EACW, FISTS, FOC, GTC, HACWG, HSC, HTC, INORC, ITC, MCWG, RTC, SHSC, SPCWC, UCWC, VHSC, UFT. Also included was N. America (N2NT) and Asiatic Russia. There were 21 non-affiliated entrants also and they hope to see these again next year with a flag to fly. These are not the final figures as they were compiled before the Feb 15 deadline. Thanks to Maurice F5NQL for the QSP. Much other info also received from Maurice during February but the bulk of it alas was short term and immediate and would therefore have been out of date for Keynote.

I note however that F6KOP will be QRV from Togo 6-13 March.

IT'S ALL HAPPENING

Nancy has got herself into something of a flap recently with the code/no-code debate raging over there in the colonies. T' would seem new members are coming in by droves causing the aspirin consumption to rise quite steeply. Many of these have already been logged at the time of writing and the published listings from our website have been up-dated accordingly.

There is also a steady flood of lapsed members from the NA list

returning so all we need now are decent band condx with some txatlantic tfc. Now that would be nice!

G3TUX

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

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Phone 01428-661501 FAX 01428-66795

SCIENCE WEEK 2004

From the RSGB, a reminder that National Science week runs 12/21 March.

Clubs are invited to participate by organising local events at schools, civic centres etc. If you are in any doubt then log on to <www.rsgb.org/scienceweek> where you will hopefully find inspiration for your club.

GB4FUN will again be on the road. Info from the above.

HMMMM!

From the web page of W5WWW:

In the days of old, when ops were bold,
And sidebands not invented,
The word would pass by pounding brass,
And all were well contented.
Take care Jim Steel (m0zak)

CHANGE OF CALL (UP-GRADE)

09801 SWL5 now becomes M0RSY. OK Andy but t'was very naughty of you not to LMK before this.

EXTENDED MEMBERSHIP

Hello Geo,

My name is Jun, JM1JOT. I live in CA USA and operate K6KF now. So I belong to the US FISTS and #9117.

Here I came up an idea and let me give you a question: What is the criteria (if exists) for establishing a new FISTS division, such as FISTS ASIA or FISTS JAPAN?

I just think of it because there are lots of CW operators in JA and they could potentially become part of us. However, why are there only 20 FISTS members now in JA? I guess quite a few JA hams feel that it's not easy to join because the process must go in English. Another reason would be the currency, the fee must be paid in GBP not JPY.

Currently some JA FISTS members have set up a web site to introduce our activities and encourage JA CW operators to join us. So I personally think that if they, the JA FISTS could have some sort of responsibility to take over the membership paperwork for JAs, that would prompt them to join us.

I would be happy if you could tell me what you think of this. Thank you.

73,

Jun Matsuya, JM1JOT/K6KF

I have sent copies of this to both Nancy and Ralph asking for their views.

For some years I toyed with the idea of dedicated EU chapters for the various languages (German, French, Italian Spanish, Swedish etc..) which alas came to nothing despite a lot of correspondence with potential 'hits'. At one point the ZL chapter gave me hope that an autonomous JA chapter could be formed tapping a huge resource of JA amateurs. Unfortunately, this also failed to surface.

The main problem is of course language and the translation of Keynote and other information from English to various languages. This is not a problem without a solution but that solution would require the cooperation of a bi-lingual individual or individuals with the necessary equipment (not quite so demanding nowadays with the widespread availability of computers) who would

be prepared to put in the necessary work. Autonomous chapters such as this would also ease the growing problem of currency conversion to maintain subs. As I pointed out earlier, paypal may well help to solve this difficulty though to be honest, I would be much happier without the problem and certainly such chapters collecting their own subs in their native currency would go a long way not only to easing this situation but also expanding membership.

To be sure, the JA website is a good start in this direction and such promotions are to be encouraged in other countries.

Your thoughts on these points would be appreciated.

These communications have stirred up lots of enthusiasm an example of which is from the reply by Ralph ZL2AOH to Jun:

Dear Jun,

The only real problem in establishing a JA Fists would be getting somebody with the time to organise it. In the early stages, (less than, say, 50 members, it would be possible for one person to do it, apart from translating the UK Key Note. When we started FISTS Down Under (for ZL and VK) I received a huge amount of support from Geo G3ZQS and others in the UK.

I edited and distributed the local newsletter (FISTS Down Under), maintained membership records, ran the local FISTS QSL bureau and communicated with the other chapters of FISTS. (Thank goodness for e-mail!) A local subscription was determined that was about half of that required when serviced from the UK - (postage difference.) When we reached 50 members I sent out an SOS for assistance and was fortunate to get a volunteer (Nigel ZL2TX) who now edits the newsletter and runs the ZL QSL bureau. I also have a volunteer in Australia (Chris VK2MQX) who arranges the printing and distribution of the newsletters there and runs the QSL bureau there. Our web site is managed by George VK2DLF.

As the number of VK members increases, it might be possible for them become independent and manage their own affairs.

One of our members is Makoto Kamada JE1CLH, a personal friend, who joined when he visited ZL a few years ago. He is in touch with the other members in JA and they occasionally meet socially in Tokyo. I have always believed that there is great potential for membership in JA and even in east Asia generally. I tried to interest Nobu Takahashi JF3KNW in doing something about it. (He was in Wellington for a few months for JA/ZL teacher liaison.) Unfortunately family and work responsibilities prevented his doing anything about it, although he wrote an article for CQ JA publicising FISTS. - Managing a JA chapter would be an ideal task for a retired ham who has good command of written English. I would be delighted to assist with guidance to anyone who is prepared to start a JA FISTS Chapter. Obviously the major task would be to translate Key Note, although it might be wise initially to just translate the major points of interest. It might be possible to get the co-operation of a high school or university English department to do it as part of their studies.

I am circulating this reply to others who may like to add something to the discussion.

As a matter of interest, I took a shufti at the JA website but aside from links to the US and EU sites, I rather suspected that the computer was malfunctioning and I was looking at machine code. Certainly lots of weird symbols. Hi.

FINALE

Bob M5AGL got an email from M0KWW whose activity is somewhat restricted. He is looking for a regular sked from (as he describes it) an insomniac member to help increase his working speed. Not sure if Bob found anyone but the location is Sale in Cheshire and his QRV period is 0640-0710. LMK if you would like to help.

Better cuit 'n run because I want to catch the printer in time to get this issue in the mail before the end of the month so for now people, enjoy what little time you have left of the month and a reminder that this is a leap year so many of you will be stuck indoors with all windows and doors securely locked on the 29th Feb.

73/88 and stay sober.

Geo