

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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COMMITTEE

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P.R.O.

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G4XHZ

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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@comcast.net>

written logs to HQ. No charges and no return envelope required.

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 and sent to G3ZQS.

Up-dated listings may also 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 £6.00 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:

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M5AGL bobm5agl@btopenworld.com

M0ZAK jim.steel@ntlworld.com

M0BPT m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk

MHz caused me to rapidly change to the HF mag loop to work a station from Pakistan and then to the beam when S, Vietnam was heard on 15m - no luck on that one though. Hi. Closer to home, 40m again began to return to near normal conditions most days with the South coast producing signals equal to or indeed stronger than DL or F. T' would have been great if only I could have found the time.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

As usual, I will not be printing the December Keynote. Not so much for a rest but the fact that the Christmas/New Year mail would screw things up and the printer would surely be stretched to the limit during that period. It will also give me chance to 'cook the books' ready for 2005. I can tell you now though that our funds remain in a very healthy state and that once again, there seems absolutely no reason to increase subs. Not bad considering that apart from the introduction of a £4.00 subscription for e-mail subscribers, the subs have remained unchanged since around 1988.

SKW AND SEPTEMBER LADDER

The gremlins have struck. Bob M5AGL, reports a computer failure after 6 years of otherwise trouble free operation. The consequence was that although he managed to retrieve some of his backed-up files, the compilation for SKW and September ladder have taken wing and he asks those of you who sent in reports for either event to do so again. This includes for the ladder; M0DRK, G0UHM, M5ABN, GX2HDF, G4LHI and GW4HDB. all reported via email and; GU4HUY, G14CBG, 2E0EUK via snail mail.

For the SKW:

M0RHB (via email) and G4NCU, M0BHA and G3LIK via snail mail.

I assume that Bob is suitably scarlet of complexion after this and a full report including current ladder entries will be published in January.

MORE ON PACEMAKERS

It was Jack G3MEY who cleared the air a little concerning these devices. 'Gone are the days when airport scanners, microwaves etc. need to be avoided'. Gotta use your loaf a little with regard to both of the above - with airport scanners just walk through and don't be tempted into posing for the paparazi on your way before you exit the scanner.

As a pacemaker user, Tony, G4KLF sheds more light on this: *Have read with interest the article about Pacemakers and RF. I have had a pacemaker for 15 years now and operated with no side effects all that time including a year in the Royal Air Force of Oman as an Electronics Officer. My duties included being on Radar Head sites which had Megawatts of RF being fired at a high pulse repetition frequencies. This did not affect my pacemaker. Yes I did have to avoid Airport security scanners (as the use of magnetic induction is the way pacemakers are set to their*

QSL BUREAU

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).

UK 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.

G1, G2, G5, G6, G7, G8 (Except for Wales) and **ALL** special (GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

All members in Wales. M0AVW. Address on Banner

Pre-paid postal subscriptions

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

GREETINGS

It has been one of those months here at HQ. I must have managed at best two hours on the air due to admin and indifferent health. There has also been some delay with starting this letter as things have been happening this month which I am sure you will find of interest which concerns the BBC. More of this later however since at the time of writing I am waiting for reports on a broadcast by E. Midlands local TV and radio concerning Morse.

The onset of autumn has brought a few surprises in the shape of HF openings. The rig, being on rx with a wide band filter most of the time, bands which at first appear to be flat suddenly produce some unexpected DX signals on an untuned W3DZZ. 18

programs).

I ought to say that there is a difference between pacemakers and ICD's (the Implanted Cardio Defibrillator). An ICD controls the hearts pulse rate when the patient is liable to go out of synch, i.e. fibrillates. It sets a regular pace rate. My pacemaker was an 'On demand' device which would push my heart rate up if it dropped below a certain rate, that in my case was if it dropped below 50 pulses per minute, it would switch in and take my heart rate up to 70 pulses per minute. Once my own natural rythem took over then the pacemaker would switch off from the pulsing mode and go back to standby.

I am now on my third pacemaker; this is not due to failure or battery replacement but to the simple fact that I was too active (I was a rock climber and mountaineer). Hence I succeeded in forcing the pacemakers through my skin which subjected them to infection. On my last pacemaker implant they had to remove the old one from the left hand side of my body and remove the wiring from the heart because I had a nest of bacteria slowly growing down to my heart and it would have killed me eventually. This was a four hour operation under general anesthetic and dangerous, they then proceeded to implant the new pacemaker into the right hand side of my body and took the wiring through a blood vein around my neck and down to my heart. Needless to say I have given up rock climbing.

It is pointed out that each succeeding generation of pacemakers is more sophisticated than their predecessor but does this make them either more or less vulnerable to the effects of radiation? It would be unreasonable to expect an awareness of what is perceived as a minor health risk attached to our hobby from a limited field of specialists such as would be found in the realm of pacemaker implant technology so, if you are unfortunate enough to find yourself requiring one of these gadgets, don't take the word of the hospital porter - ASK!

GM3UWX

Hi Geo.

I hope that you are well and that your arm is getting back to normal. I send CW with my right hand but I bought a paddle key a few years ago and John GM4GZQ persuaded me to learn to use it with my left hand so I now have the paddle key left, the straight key right and the log in the middle. I'm not into electronic logs as PCs and I don't get on all that well HI.

John and I have not had any requests for Morse Proficiency Tests so far in the Paisley area but we have been asked to teach six people to use CW. All are either Intermediate or Advanced licensees and are progressing well. Brian MM1HMZ is now approaching 18wpm so maybe we will persuade him to join FISTS someday. We run QRS QSO sessions on Monday evenings at 8pm on 50.300 MHz which is a nice quiet band for this kind of thing. 73 Jim GM3UWX

Fine Jim though you could be restricting your horizons. I dunno anyone who runs 50MHz but as long as you are getting results then that is about all that matters.

See the item by G3ZPF.

FISTS AND AUNTY BEEB

A short while ago I received a CC from Nancy in which a BBC reporter was asking for information on CW and any possible contacts in the East Midlands for CW and the disabled. I e-mailed him which led to a telephone call a consequence of which produced three phone calls in the geographical area of interest. I also found the email address of the membership manager of the RAIBC for him should this help.

A few days later I watched the regional version of the evening news from BBC E.Midlands and was delighted to see Alf (G3UAA) doing his stuff in a short but very interesting spot in the programme.

Odd thing really because some years prior, Alf was approached by the beeb to supply sound-overs for a programme dedicated to the search for a lost Lancaster bomber.

A consequence of the E.M. transmission and the BBCs ICAN website caused my phone to ring due to interest from a reporter from BBC NW keen to do the same sort of thing for our local area though in this case it was to cover the club and a possible point

to point video coverage of a 2-way QSO with a local ham. At the moment I am still waiting further developments.

QRV on the web? try <http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/ican/> and run a search for Morse.

Within a couple of days of this E.M. transmission, I received an email from Gian I2VRF who overcomes his severe disabilities by 'surfing the web' among other activities:

I have sent to you an article of BBC News that obviously you know very well. I am using cw since 1958 (my first licence) and in my situation I am glad to know it so that I can occupy some hours of my long day (sometimes too long!) and I call even if propagation does not aid, it is nice to hear the music of the cw even if only mine.

Best regards. Giancarlo I2VRF "Gian"

E. ASIA CLUB MEMBER

From Jean, JL3SIK news of the inclusion of a club station within the E.Asia chapter:

15100 JE7YTQ (FISTS-JA7 representative JK7UST Sugi)

CALLSIGN LOOKUP SITE

From WB2FXK a QSP of QRZ look-alike:

http://hamcall.net/cgi-bin/do_hamcallexe.

I took a trip there out of curiosity and ammended a much out of date entry for GX0IPX and my own call G3ZQS. Worth a look.

THE DX STUFF

Nov 1-15, Netherland Antilles,PJ2

Nov 11-19, S. Shetland Islands, ZW0

Nov 20-30, Fij, 3D2

Nov 20-Dec 04, Falklands, VP8, VP8WWW in CQ DX CW

Nov 22-Dec 05, Cambodia, XU7ADI

Nov 22-Dec 09, Christmas Island, VK9XG also CQ DX CW

BPL AND FCC

From the CQ Newsroom...

The FCC today adopted new rules for Broadband over Power Lines, or BPL, that it said includes provisions to protect hams and other HF spectrum users from interference and to set up processes for quick resolution of any problems that do occur. However, according to the FCC's news release, disrupting service to BPL subscribers apparently is not an option in resolving interference problems. "The rule changes in the Order establish specific technical and administrative requirements for Access BPL equipment and operators to ensure that interference does not occur," reads the FCC announcement, continuing, "and, should it occur, to provide for a timely resolution of that harmful interference **without disruption of service to Access BPL subscribers.**" The text of the decision was not immediately available. It would seem that the only voice offering anything approaching objection was concerned only that power subscribers may be asked to pay more for their energy bills to support the service.

OBS OF A RETIRED PERSON

A few extracts from a QSP from WB2FXK which I simply couldn't resist sharing:

I planted some bird seed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it.

I had amnesia once -- or twice.

I went to San Francisco. I found someone's heart. Now what? Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?

They told me I was gullible ... and I believed them.

Two can live as cheaply as one, for half as long.

Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.

What if there were no hypothetical questions?

One nice thing about egotists: They don't talk about other people.

A flashlight is a case for holding dead batteries.

What was the greatest thing before sliced bread?

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

How can there be self-help "groups"?

Is there another word for synonym?
Is it possible to be totally partial?
What's another word for thesaurus?
If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?

UTF BY F6IIE

UTF is born...

Gathered together via an internet list, some friends thinking our aim and Morse code preservation are encountering great risk with the new policy conducted upon our names, we decided to create a lobby named: Union des Télégraphistes Francophones. This lobby was born on Thursday september 2nd 2004 to gather the real lovers of Morse code so called « Friends of Morse ».

Our motto... and our goals!

Don't talk about Morse, Practice! For the time being, this is not a club as far as French regulations and laws are concerned. We are lobbying with the aim and motto of a real and active preservation of Morse code under all its purposes. If we need one day to create a new club, this will be but at the moment this is not the main purpose.

We are already exchanging messages and information via a French speaking list which is CW oriented. Our goal is not to collect Euro banknotes nor pile up any treasure. Nor it is to say yes to everything or shut up when somebody else think this is not our turn to argue as far as Morse code is concerned.

Some people thought this is not fair to create such kind of a lobby regarding their action (Orno action at all!) for Morse preservation but this is not our problem. Our action is to provide help on the main part of the hobby which is always forgotten by our national clubs: Help people to learn and use Morse code!

We have a website at <http://utf.webamat.net/>

LX QRV WARC

Les G3VQO will be QRV in Luxembourg for CQ WW from the town of Wiltz 26-29 Nov in SOAB-LP section with 100w to some very impressive antennas. Outside of contest period he will be QRV on 30m and other WARC bands and looking forward to possible contacts with FISTS members.

FURTHER E.A. CLUB MBRSHIP

Jean JA3SIK adds JO1ZZZ (#15200) to the E. Asia list. Caretaker is Atsu JE1TRV. This of course ties in with the policy of leading chars of suffix being either 'Y' or 'Z' for Japanese club calls.

HSC CONTEST

Date: last Sunday in February and first Sunday in November 2004: 29th February and 7th November

Time: from 0900 to 1100 UTC and from 1500 to 1700 UTC

Stations to be worked: any, every station may be worked once per band and contest period

Categories: 1- HSC members (max. 150W HF output),
2- Non-members (max. 150W HF output),
3-QRP(max 5W HF output)(mems and nonmems),
4- SWL's (members and non-members)

Frequencies: 3.5 MHz; 7 MHz; 14 MHz; 21 MHz; 28 MHz;
(10 to 30 kHz above lower band edge)

Mode: CW only

Exchange: HSC members: RST+HSC membership number,
e.g. 599 1730, Non-members: RST + "NM", e.g. 599 NM

QSO Points: 5 points for contacts with HSC members, 1 point for contacts with non-members.

Total score: sum of QSO points.

Logs: Log files on disks or via e-mail (ASCII text files or files of common contest computer software like LM, CT, QW, PCProfiLog, ...; ADIF, STF files preferred) are welcome.

E-mail log entries are valid only after confirmation by the contest manager.

For SWL's: The same station may appear in the log only five times (max.) per period and band.

Deadline: 6 weeks after the contest (postmark) 2004: 11th April and 19th December.

Awards: Since 1998 the "HSC Contest Champion of the Year" is elected each year. To be eligible for this award you have to win

both contests in one year. You may change the categories from one contest to the other, i.e. HSC member (1) and QRP (3) or Non-member (2) and SWL (4). The winner will receive a special award.

Contest Manager: Lutz Schröder, DL3BZZ

Am Niederfeld 6, 35066 Frankenberg / Eder.

E-mail: hsc-contest@dl3bzz.de

PROPAGATION FORECAST

The following propagation update for this weekend's CQ World Wide DX Contest (SSB) is provided by CQ magazine Propagation Editor Tomas Hood, NW7US.

The planetary A index (Ap) is forecast to be between 5 and 10 - not too shabby. The peak planetary K index (Kp) is expected to stay around 3 or less. So, this is not a perfect quiet condition. Nevertheless, there shouldn't be significant degradation of the level of ionization.

My Last Minute Forecast <http://hfradio.org/lastminute_propagation.html> shows a High-Normal for 30 October, and Above-Normal for 31 October.

Barring any major flaring and coronal mass ejections, this should be an exciting and productive contest weekend.

I'll create one more update just prior to the CQ WW SSB weekend. And, I'll be posting my predictions for the CQ WW CW weekend, too. Good luck, testers!

Looks like the perceived improvement in band conditions is set to continue and indeed, one of the few N.A. stations worked in the C2C indicated that he had worked ZL2 on 40m which can't be bad. Perhaps it would be a good idea to note the URL page above so that periodic checks may be made.

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: 01704-894299

e-mail: g4zpy@g4zpy.co.uk

<http://www.g4zpy.go-plus.net>

HEARING DIFFICULTIES

Spoke on the 'telling bone' to Mary G0BQV, t' other evening and she was telling me that she has a severe problem in this area, so much so that she needs to make use of an audio loop in order that a hearing aid can pick up from it.

I know we have many members who are similarly disadvantaged in this respect who may not be aware of the advantages of such a loop. Warning... they are not cheap and I spent some time on the internet looking for a 'home brew' alternative but with no luck.

NEW MEMBERS

10851 5B4AHO	Barry	10852 G4CLD	Gerald
10853 ON6SAS	Philipp	10853 M3SEN	Jim
10854 G6XCY	Reb	10854 M0AYX	Tony

G6XCY may also be identified as G0CJM which call has been listed as an alternative within the active list.

STRAIGHT KEY ADJUSTMENT

It was Gerald who along with others, found my own seized up shoulder ringing bells and photocopied a 1977 (he must have a heck of a reference library) article by WB9VAV hoping it may prove providential. The article uses the 'J' series US Keys as an example and is firmly mounted about 18 inches from the edge of the bench. If you don't fancy the idea of driving screws into your bench surface then use a length (18 inches perhaps) of thin timber or ply as a base. The idea is to rest your forearm and elbow on the bench with the wrist elevated above the knob. Old habits

die hard and anyone who tried this in the RN would probably have found themselves attached to a length of anchor chain and dumped overboard but when corrosion finds its way into the old joints it's any port in a storm.

I have actually been doing this for years now but since the bench is an area of extreme chaos, the key sits at an angle and I send with a more or less side saddle attitude. However, the article spurred me into experimenting a little and it became clear that (a) the chair is too low since it is used primarily at the computer and (b) the post is perhaps considerably higher than that of the 'J' key. In one of those flashes of inspiration such as when you stuff your finger into a live light socket, I plonked a few magazines on the desk for support and tried that and I must confess it is something of an improvement. There is still some discomfort but much reduced from what it was before.

The article suggests a contact gap of $\frac{1}{8}$ which I find a little excessive but of course the ideal is a combination of tension and gap which are individual preferences and I note that Gerald has penned in '27 thou'.

I shall hang on to this copy for a while in case anyone would like a shufti.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G3JKY. Secret revealed is that No2 stepson Chris set off on a world tour in 1993 but only got as far as New Zealand. Could he be a gastronome I wonder or perhaps a chef. In any case he followed a food trail through South Island, Dunedin and ultimately Golden Bay and Takaka (a place you could easily miss if you blink whilst passing through) at which point his batteries seemingly ran out. A decrepit 'house' which Chris and his partner thought to convert to a fashionable restaurant served as a place for Jakey and Joyce to lay their heads in a 2003 visit. They sought to buy a place of their own and a chance meeting with an ex Thames Pilot secured for them a most suitable spot for half the price of their UK residence. There's a lot more to Jakey's letter but for now, he finds time to get on the air and surprisingly has joined the local Brass Band.

G4UIA. Derek promises to report on 'Morse Cracker' now that he has a lap top. With an advertised price of £12.45 this CD is cheap enough if it does the job. Previous PC fell somewhere between Babbage and Sinclair though the more compact lap top can sometimes be difficult to find.

G0EOK. Sorry I couldn't make Rochdale Paul. No transport here of course and my Son was away for a holiday in Italy. Down there in the wilds of Wigan they must have installed sub-aqua power lines because he wrote following his second power failure in two days. Uses a computer desk to accommodate his radio gear and recently added an additional shelf for his Century 22. Surprised at the difference between that and his TS570 in terms of QRN. The Ten-Tec is much quieter. Perhaps I should consider one myself since QRN here can peak at S9 when the FT1000MP is switched off. Hi. Also a hand-rolled keyer (lineage uncertain) via his friend G4VYJ. There are still boat anchors in Paul's attic which he is reluctant to bring down fearing a collapsed desk.

G0OUI. Acknowledges G0GMA as his ultimate Century point and Gordon G4ZPY for supplying the paddles. T'was well worth the wait he says. Yes, 13 years is a long time to wait for your Century Bill but points aside, there must have been many a rag-chew on the way which is really more the object of the exercise than the certificate. Hi.

G3TEV. Mike has a longstanding twice weekly sked with his old R.A.F. pal G3IYC (now in VK3) though it has been heavy weather of late. His daily sked with 9J2BO is now up to nearly 3,600 hits. He also acts as QSL manager for the Zambian station which approaches the status of a full time job with some 3,000 cards per year exchanged.

G3UAA. Alf has an appetite for the infamous. Not only did he feature in the recent BBC programme but the day prior to that, he was scheduled to meet up with the Duke of Gloucester at the 150th anniversary of the Leicester Archeological and History Society where he serves on the committee. Makes you wonder how he finds time to get on the air doesn't it?

G0MYP. Dave recently received Frankfurt Radio Club award and he does a paste-up job (literally) on the back of his QSL card. "CW is:

*a unique, intimate concise and effective communication skill still employed throughout the world. It is the most efficient mode in terms of power required for long-distance communication, least susceptible to interference and most conserving of the RF spectrum. It involves no accent or pronunciation problems providing a widely understood international language. It employs simpler, more reliable and easily maintained equipment than any other communication mode. It is an equaliser, negating age, speech impediments and dialectical differences and it provides for ready acceptance of youngsters in an adult environment. It is the **only** mode that is understood readily by both man and machine."*

Well! after all that what is left to say?

GM3OAV. Well, perhaps that suffix should be OAP since Doug is still coming to terms with finding himself a pensioner. Splashed out on a new Icom 7400 to try and cheer himself up but beginning to doubt that likelihood since hearing some new hams on 2m extolling the virtues of dx-ing via telephone i.e. E-QSO... no HF rig needed. Are we edging our way to automated and computerised QSOs? He still reckons that CW is the best "fun" mode and I can hardly argue with that. Hi.

GW4KUS. I really do hope things improve for you Bert. Due to his wife's health, he has been virtually QRT since the end of January. She was in hospital for 10 weeks, had 5 operations (three of which were major) and was almost lost to us on two occasions. Home now though she requires 24 hour attention with nurse in attendance 3 times per day. And I thought I had problems!

INTERNET LINKING

From G3ZHI I learn there is an article on the above on:
<http://www.qsl.net/g3zhi/Gateways.doc> (doc file)
<http://www.qsl.net/g3zhi/Gateways.pdf> (pdf file)

FINALE

Have to cut 'n run again folks as I am a week behind where I would like to be and need to ensure that printer gets his copy in order that I can get the postal version out pdq.

Trust you will all have a pleasant holiday period and since I do not have to get into a flap about the December issue, maybe can find some time to get on the air.

My thanks to all the supporting staff, particularly the QSL managers at which point I must honour a promise to Chuck who expresses his gratitude for all those stamps.

73/88 people. Make sure it's only the Turkey that gets stuffed over the holidays and I'll be with you again in January.

Geo