



KEY NOTE



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

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/>
E-Mail HQ: fist1@btinternet.com

<http://www.fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>
webmaster: webmaster@asel.demon.co.uk

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW
32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh
3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY

CONTEST MANAGER: GM4ELV
1 Micklehouse Rd, Springhill, G69 6TG.

COMMITTEE

Chairman
Vice Chairman
P.R.O.
Secretary

G4XHZ
G4YLB
G4YLB
G3ZQS

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

AWARDS

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

SUBS: e-mail 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.

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

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

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

Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets. Please include your **CALLSIGN** on all correspondence.

Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <spence5@ntlworld.com>

M0AYI Glenn@m0ayi.freeseerve.co.uk

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, BARNESLEY, S73 9AE.

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

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

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

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

GREETINGS

At the time of writing, autumn seems to be heralded by weather more characteristic of summer than during summer itself. Still it does give a lift both in spirits and in band conditions where late evening on 20M is frequently open to the US and 40M finds a whole host of strong UK/EU FISTS signals providing good conditions for rag chewing. The fact that HQ is in need of a decent antenna for 30M though becomes obvious when I can hear EU and even UK stations working into JA, ZL and other DX locations which cannot be heard at this end. I really must do something about it. Hi. The only thing I can do at the present time is to 'tune' the W3DZZ because the small mag loop above the beam will not bounce on that band and the large one located in the garden is extremely touchy at 10.1 MHz aside from causing interference to the audio on neighbours TV. Why this should be so is a mystery since they report no interference with the video side and there are no problems evident on my own installation.

We continue to attract new members on the EU/DX list whilst both Nancy and Ralph regularly report additions to the US and

ZL/VK lists. Currently there are 5021 members in total - 1096 on the EU/DX list, 3837 on the US and 88 on the ZL/VK lists. The US list is in a state of flux of course since deletions and reinstatments are not always up to date but it gives a good overall picture of our state of health.

M0AVW reports a seasonally characteristic increase in the traffic being handled at the bureau and incidentally, is keen to thank those of you who have been sending in stamps for his local church appeal. The response itself he describes as overwhelming and somewhere up in the wilderness of Tyne Tees, there is a local vicar with a broad smile. Hi.

Talking of broad smiles, an on-air report from a M0 station who seemingly had been encouraged to use a gifted key by one of our members came out as 332. I can understand the strength and readability part of the report as he was blessed with little more than 30 feet of wire under his roof, but is my FT1000MP responsible for such a disgraceful tone? Don't worry.... this confusion with full RST reports as opposed to those of phone is common and I tend to think "I heard what you said but I know what you meant".

G0VTN and myself often turn up the wick on 40M and between us try to put the world to rights. These QSOs frequently border on the bizarre since we share the same warped sense of humour and have identical views of current social events but I think we must have something of an audience because snippets from our observations frequently creep into on-air rag chews with other stations. Ron incidentally struggles with severe arthritis and I picture puppet like behaviour out of the chair but he handles things well making it a pleasure to insult him. Got his wife well trained though - takes care of all the household chores, does the gardening and is not averse to buying him the occasional treat. Hi.

CONTEST MANAGER

Heck! I am not having the best of luck here. Dale who so recently volunteered to take over the position has indicated his wish to resign. Fortunately we do have another member who is prepared to take up the reins but for the moment, he is not QRV on the web which does make things difficult. However, he has plans afoot which will rectify this before too long. I will keep you informed as things progress. In the meantime, Dale has offered to maintain his watch on the ladder until November.

DARC AND CW REQUIREMENT

Germany moves to keep code tests...from WIA Web Site
The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) in a submission "Morse code and WRC 2003" to the IARU Region 1 Conference being held in San Marino in November, support the retention of Morse code as an amateur licence qualification.

It urges all IARU Region 1 member societies to ask their radio authorities to keep Morse code as an amateur licence test requirement.

DARC argues that in all of the previous discussion in the IARU Region 1 about the obligatory knowledge of Morse code, one major requirement not under dispute is to keep the knowledge level of amateur radio examinations at least at the current standard.

DARC seems to rely on this to mean that Morse code should continue as a licence requirement. "Morse code watch" says time will tell if the DARC submission gains support from other IARU Region 1 radio societies.

A vote of DARC members earlier this year narrowly supported retention of the code requirement.

DARC also states in its submission, that the IARU Administrative Committee's "Guatemala Resolution" on the issue needs to be reviewed.

In a media release issued in October 2001, the IARU AC stated: recognising that the Morse code continues to be an effective and efficient mode of communication used by many thousands of radio amateurs, but further recognising that the position of Morse as a qualifying criterion for an HF amateur license is no longer relevant to the healthy future of amateur radio,

Resolves that

1. member societies are urged to seek, as an interim measure, Morse code

testing speeds not exceeding five words per minute;

2. setting aside any previous relevant decisions, IARU policy is to support the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz.

The DARC has also proposed that IARU Region 1 societies should, as a group, discuss the introduction of a Novice licence system before introducing a low level entry licence to their individual radio authorities.

This proposal could be seen as referring to those nations, including Britain with its Foundation licence, who have or intend to jump the gun on a uniform CEPT Class 3 (novice) licence.

12th September 2002 - (SIC) - The Wireless Institute of Australia <http://www.wiavic.org.au/mcw/>.

The above info relayed from F5NQL.

please would you answer not later than September, 30th, for the rules need to be updated and published no later than Oct 10th for Magazines and on Web sites

Best regards . For the EUCW 160m contest committee (Sponsored by UFT) . Jacques, F5YJ , jacar@club-internet.fr, et Maurice, F5NQL, f5nql@aol.com

I know this is some way ahead but the fact is that the HQ station as such is unable to operate on 160M (the antenna is just not up to it) and apart from that, even allowing for my usual "Christmas break", I would be hard pressed to participate. As you will note, there is not too much time to confirm the presence of GX0IPX though if any members have 160M facilities and care to form a team, MX5IPX is available for this occasion but please note the restricted time available.

QRS AND PRACTICE ACTIVITY

Hello Geo,

Fairly soon, in the next couple of weeks or so, I am proposing to start a morse over the air session at 1830 clock time for 30 minutes on 3.595 MHz + or - QRM. From 1825, interested listeners should look for sigs from me 'QRL QRL QRL de G0JLX /p' etc.

I propose to use the Farnsworth method of teaching, starting at 5 wpm (20 wpm characters) and slowly increment that to 16 wpm over a number of weeks to ensure competency for those eventually taking the CW test.

Transmissions will be made from Epsom on Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs only, thus giving 2 hours practice Rx per week. It would be great if somebody else could do it Fri, Sat & Sun when I cannot.

Routine will be 2 sets of numbers to 'warm them up' then plain language with mixed numbers and control characters for approx 29 minutes. Text can (and will) be anything I feel like sending, so it will be impossible to cheat.

I currently have 3 students, comprising 2 SWL's in Chalfont St. Peter and 1 'B' class in Coventry.

Interested parties (A, B, Intermediate, Foundation or SWL) are invited to contact me at:

instructor@asel.demon.co.uk

andy.digby@mail.com

by phone on 07768 282880

by fax on 08701 205954

Reports will be welcomed after each session's SSB readback.

Kind regards,

Andy Digby G0JLX

SILENT KEY

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you of the death of Bill Woodrup 2E0RAF.

He Passed away peacefully Friday 13th September 2002 and will be sadly missed. My mother has asked that Donations to Trinity Hospice in the fylde or to Rosemere Cancer Centre (Royal Preston Hospital) who both treated him in his final weeks, be sent in lieu of flowers.

Andrew Woodrup, 2E0AVJ

DEADLINE???

Tony (G4FAI) relayed an email from the Italian I-QRP CLUB ARI which highlighted a contest due to begin 27 Sept. This is a EUCW club but as Tony pointed out, it was a tad optimistic that it would meet any news letter deadline limits. I am frequently unable to include scheduled items which arrive too late for inclusion so, just a gentle reminder to those of you planning dx-peditions or even just holiday activity possibilities, please allow plenty of time.

CHANGE OF CALL

M5AGQ, having passed the necessary tests, sent an application to the RA for a M0 call. This was confirmed as M0TIF and they even refunded the fees for his previous call pointing out that he could not hold both M5 and M0. Also, Mark, M0DJA becomes G0DJQ with an appropriate change to his email address.

160M TEST

The next EUCW 160m contest will be on the air on the first 2003 week end, January 4th and 5th.

The EUCW 160m. contest rules are now modified as follows : Any of EUCW's official call-sign used in the contest by authorised hams, values the contact for 10 points. For example : GX0IPX (for FISTS), F8UFT (for UFT), G4FOC (FOC) and so on are each valued for 10 points if contacted by any participant in the contest.

It would be kind of you to inform the EUCW 160m Committee, if your Society owns a special call sign, what it is, and if it's will be possible to hear it in the contest. In such case, please say us who will be behind the key using your Society's callsign, before December 28th, 2002.

Except for the name of the operator of your Society's callsign,

30M AWARD

For those of you QRV on this useful but otherwise under-used band, F5NQL relays the following:

DXCC is pleased to announce the addition of the 30-Meter (10 MHz) Single Band DXCC award.

Applications for this award will be accepted beginning October 1, 2002.

30-Meter DXCC certificates will be dated but not numbered. 30-Meter credits will count toward the DeSoto Cup competition ending September 30, 2003.

They will also be included in the DXCC Annual List totals for the period ending on that date. A 30-Meter endorsement to 5 Band DXCC will also be available.

The 30-meter band was added to the standard printout in January 2002. If you received a copy of your record since then, you already have a copy of your 30-meter credits. If you do not know which credits you have on 30 meters, you can contact DXCC for a copy of your record. If you have web access and can handle ADOBE (pdf) files, contact DXCC at dxcc@arrl.org for a copy of your record. If you do not have web access, please send a note to DXCC along with \$2.00 (US and Canada), \$4.00 (outside the US and Canada) for postage and handling. For further information, please contact DXCC at dxcc@arrl.org.

Mauro Pregliasco, 1I1JQJ/KB2TJM

425 DX News Editor

E-mail: i1jqj@425dxn.org

<http://www.425dxn.org>

S5 QRP CLUB

I am advised that a new site (<http://www.s5qrp.com/>) is currently under construction

NEWMEMBER

Hans, G0UPL recounts building a rock bound one-valve 80m TX together with a polyphase SSB RX. Forward/reverse switch on his homebrew ATU was reverse-labelled so his first QSO in March 2002 (with FISTS member G4GZG) over a distance of 12 miles must have stretched it a little. He tried again in August (this time remembering the misleading labelling) and since then has managed 30 QSOs in 5 countries on 80m, QRS with what he describes as 'rusty' Morse. A DX contact over about 4 miles with G0JLX/P resulted in their meeting in a local watering hole for a pint or two where he was introduced to FISTS. QSL exchange was literally 'direct' of course. Hans includes references for those interested in the hand rolled kit:

<http://www.hanssummers.com/radio/cwtx/index.htm>

<http://www.hanssummers.com/radio/atu/atu.htm>

<http://www.hanssummers.com/radio/polyphase/index.htm>

Welcome aboard Hans.. sure you will enjoy the company.

SITES

Following last months' list of sites, David, G3ZPF reminds me that he may be found at ww.djreynolds.supanet.com. I try to keep up with these but the list is rather exhaustive; however following a hint from David, I found <http://www.mods.dk/> to be among the really useful ones. Lots of mods for lots of rigs.

WWII VETS

Maurice F5NQL, forwards the following:

For the 60th anniversary of the NORMANDIE-NIEMEN airborne squadron, created by General de GAULLE, in 1942, the special callsign TM4ENN will be on the air from Sept 26th to october 9th.

Frequencies : 7, 14, 21, 28 and 144 Mhz QSL via the french REF Bureau or to F6BZH ...

We almost missed it but I hope most of you will have a few days to look for 'em.

WELL-COULD YOU TRANSCRIBE TO JA?

G3ZOD (Graham) took a shufti on the GHD web site (re. optical paddles) and whilst he took his hat off to the guy since he speaks not one word of Japanese, the following quotes put his belly in spasm:

"No chattering well signals at all."

"High grade. You will satisfy on it!"

"Maintenance free No back rash"

I'm still puzzling over this statement - not having an engineering background probably doesn't help:

"Lever to base had jumped direct by stainless steal. Perfect finished."

Well... 9 out of 10 for trying. Hi.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G8NT. Sadly, Dick's wife (already badly disabled) suffered a stroke in June which so badly affected her sight that she is now registered blind. Needless to say, this has placed something of a brake on his activity. G4KKI. Bill and I had a QSO in which he recalled the name of his Morse instructor from way way back. I just couldn't believe his memory but in a letter he recalls there were two sergeants with the same name, one known as 'bang bang' and the other 'tap tap' which is surely a great mnemonic and explains his 'phenomenal' memory. Hi. EI5FY. Our Bill finds his role reduced to that of SWL these days with the ubiquitous arthritic shoulders, fingers etc. Count myself lucky Bill 'cos aside from a few prominent knots twixt palms and fingers, things are near normal - at least I can still lift a pint pot. G3JKY. Tnks for the giggle Jakey. Too long to relate in Keynote though. Feels the prefix should reflect the source but notes that VE stations in particular are using odd ball prefixes at the slightest excuse which rather leaves you wondering about the country of origin. On the matter of GQ sub-manager, he expands on the possibilities... is GQ3JKY a 'G', 'GI', 'GM' or whatever? Now then mate.. just ask Chuck M0AVW how he goes on with MX5IPX, GX0IPX/P etc. He has bought himself a deerstalker but keeps losing his magnifying glass. Hi. GW3KJN. Ian was in dry-dock for 3 weeks (Aug) and was in again for a week during Sept all of which has done his CC chasing a lot of no good. Tnks for the unexpected quicky on 20m Ian. GM3PIP. Peter has resurrected a 1154/1155 combo and his letter noted a failed call to HQ but I later worked him on

40m. Got some work to do on it yet though Peter. That QRH was pretty severe with LF about 200 and HF about 300Hz. Wonder if any of our OTs could help sort out this ageing budgerigar. Could be unstable supply to the VFO I suppose but have a feeling it is a little more complex than that. Any offers? G0FVS. Jim was happy with a QRP QSO to an IK4 station but next day he found his loop lying flat on the ground with grass growing round it. Must have been there for quite a while so how in blazes his 5W got beyond the next street is a puzzle. Period of intense activity restoring it to its rightful place but all seems fine now.

ZUT AGAIN

From Richard, WA7SNY, a note explaining that the US Coast Guard CW Operators Association was founded by RMCS Ralph H. Davis in 1996; the requirements of membership being service as a Coast Guard CW Operator. 'ZUT' however was founded in 1962 by RM1 Bill Gullede during the period RATZ was establishing itself as the primary comms mode between ocean station vessels (WX) and Coast Guard radio stations. In fact, CGCWPA nets are still run Saturdays at 1600z on 14052MHz for CW check-in. That QRG incidentally is also the calling frequency for the RNARS group and those of you with a taste for it will find some pretty slick operators there.

DXPO

If you happen to be in France during October, the 24th HAMEXPRO will be held in AUXERRE, 19/20th. After Friedrichshaffen, it is possibly the most popular event on the EU calendar and several thousand visitors are expected.

Auxerre is in N. Burgundy about 160km SouthEast of Paris within drinking distance of the vinyard area that produces Chablis.

During the weekend, F6REF (REF HQ Call) will be qrv whilst TM5SIA will be active the previous and following week though no mention is made of CW activity.

Info via F5NQL.

IAMBICS AND A QUESTION OF CHOICE

G4AJA is quite pleased with his IC756 Pro but the in-built keyer enthalls him not since it is of type B whilst he is strictly a type A man. The difference? With type B a 'squeeze' released during a dot or dash will cause another alternate element to follow the one which is being produced. With type A however when a 'squeeze' is released, the element preceding release (dot or dash) will be completed and nothing else. His photocopy notes indicate that the window for action (release) on type B is only half that of type A. It would seem that some 80% - 90% of Curtis consumer sales are type A but A or B, the pin layout is identical and either the A or B pin is grounded to produce the desired output format. The blurb also points out that the mechanical bug, aside from facilitating 'characteristic' Morse (which means bending convention somewhat) also lends itself to the 'long dashes' used in the US railroad code.

THE DX STUFF

Oct 1/3 and 12/14, South Cook Islands, ZK1, QSL info on-air.

Oct 5/11, Isle of Man (Pt of Ayre LH) GB2IOM, QSL G0PDX

Oct 8/13, French Polynesia, FO, QSL JA4GX5

Oct 10/22, Macao, XX9TEP, QSL N1UR

Oct 11/27, Guernsey, MU, QSL info on-air

Oct 21/28, Bahamas, C6, QSO info on-air

Oct 28/Nov 8, American Samoa, K8T, QSL GW0ANA

Oct 29/Nov 7, American Samoa, K8O, QSL AH6HY

Oct 30/Nov 13, Guinea, 3XY7C, QSL DL7DF

Also note (though not sure if CW):

Oct 5/6, California QSO party

Oct 12/13, Pennsylvania QSO party

THE IN-BOX

Not a lot of note this month though Jakey, G3JKY observed that 'Keynote arrived last week and I was surprised to find last months still in its envelope. This leads me to conclude that Old Age is when a monthly mag arrives every week'. Tempted to write my address as 'Symmetry Rd' but chickened out and remembers that some folks misread Wrotham (pronounced Rootem) as Rotherham whilst a club 2m field day found one hopeful logging 'Settle' as Seattle. Now that must be a first on 2m surely folks!

MORSUM MAGNICAT



Samuel F.B. Morse
1791-1872

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NEW MEMBERS

8949	M3XCQ	Tory	8950	M5JWS	Steve
8951	JF8XC	Keto	8952	G4XEC	Larrie
8953	M0AUW	Dick	8954	JR0ECQ	Tomo
8955	G3HFX	Ete	8956	G4TK	Bob
8957	G0UPL	Hans	8958	DL5DKS	Steve
8959	JA2BCQ	Kez	8960	MOECS	Alan



ZL2AOH IN BLIGHTY

Our Ralph spent some time in the West country and hooked up with a few members. His web-cam was working overtime though not with too much success but I was able to make use of the above showing (left) Ralph and (right) Brian 2E0BGD. We also had a .jpg picture of Steve, G0UFW and Chris, G0HFX which whilst passable presented me with a few problems. Ralph threatened to 'borrow' someones shack and get on the air but guess I missed him if he succeeded in this.

Brian... I note we share the same taste in fungus cultivation and hair style but I am far more good looking! Dunno what happened to your garden mate.. it was there the last time I looked!

G3TUX

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REMEMBER

Just a short reminder to our newer members to keep an ear open especially on 80m for recent 'M' calls QRS. Tnks.

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

NEWPATCH

Shown below, it is a shadowed gold/black key with blue/black and red logo on a white ground and black border. I have to describe this because of course the printed version of Keynote is not in colour. Hi. It is available from Stan, K4UK and if sufficient interest is exhibited, I will import a batch for you. Cost should be minimal but depends on the total cost including postage.



THE LADDER

JULY		AUGUST	
Annual so far :-			
G4LHI	1357	G4LHI	1542
G0SCP	1285	G0SCP	1505
M5ABN	564	M5ABN	639
GW0SGG	180	GW0SGG	180
G3VQO	145	M5AGL	151
M5AGL	107	G3VQO	145
M0DRK	92	M0DRK	124
M0CMQ	63	M0CMQ	71
G0MRH	49	OH7QR	58
OH7QR	44	G0MRH	49
		M3GBT	17
		HB9CHE	15

Sri abt the confusion. The July figures have been revised.

G4ZPY

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Tel: 01704-884299

e-mail: g4zpy@lineone.net

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

FINALE

Seemingly overnight the leaves have begun to die off and whilst the UK sits beneath a virtually static umbrella of high pressure there is little or no breeze and the temperatures rarely fall below 12c at night, peaking to 19c during the day.

Oh disaster. I have here a Datong FL-2 AF filter. It used to work a treat but when it started giving problems, I went to work with contact cleaner (spray) on the slide switch - the obvious culprit. Seems to have done more harm than good though and now it is to all intents and purposes deaf. Don't really need it any more but before finding a foster home, I would like to get it up and running as it was from the factory. Anyone got any useful suggestions for undoing the damage?

11 September has been and gone and although the band conditions on 20/15 were 'grotty' to say the least, I did manage a few US contacts all of whom thanked me for my expression of shared sadness and assurance that the occasion was not forgotten on this side of the pond.

A thankyou to those thoughtful souls who heeded my plea of last month and reported in with changed email addresses. It does help.

That's your lot for this month people. Thank you all for your support. Without your help and enthusiasm, CW could well be in the oblivion that some folks claim it is instead of which, it is thriving.

The best of health to you all.

73/88 es stay sober de Geo

OCTOBER 2002

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