

# International Morse Preservation Society



# KEY NOTE



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<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> <http://www.zl6qh.com>

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## OFFICES

**QSL Manager: M0AVW**

32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

**PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh**

3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY

**CONTEST MANAGER: M5AGL**

15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

## 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@comcast.net](mailto:fistsawards@comcast.net)>  
written logs to HQ.

**SUBS:** e-mail Keynote £4.00, UK mail £5.00, EEC mail £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to just FISTS.

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

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

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

**Personalised stickers** £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets.

**Please** include your **CALLSIGN** on all correspondence.

## Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <[spence5@ntlworld.com](mailto:spence5@ntlworld.com)>

M0AYI Glenn@[m0ayi.freemove.co.uk](mailto:m0ayi.freemove.co.uk)

M5AGL bobm5agl@[btopenworld.com](mailto:btopenworld.com)

M0ZAK jim.steel@[ntlworld.com](mailto: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, BARNESLEY, 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 post-age unless otherwise advised.

## GREETINGS

Last months' Keynote was a little late at the Post Office because I was in something of a tizzy. Ivy had been admitted to hospital again and at the moment, things are looking less than rosy. Spent what time I could on-air with the SKW which rewarded me with lots of pleasant QSOs. Some were of a 'regular' nature whilst others terminated a void of up to 6 years and a further bonus was the logging of quite a few new members.

At the time of writing this, I have tuned around 20 and 15m in the hope of finding some C2C traffic but neither was useable. It would be a shame if there was no transatlantic path at all for the event. We wait and see but much of the waking hours of the US gang may well be spent at the side of a hospital bed.

Please note the change of email address for Dennis, K6DF. He has been obliged to make this change due to the amount of spam finding its way into his mailbox. Many of you will know the

problem and for some time now I have been laundering my mail through a handy bit of software rather than make changes since it would be akin to handing victory to the spammers. Takes me a couple of minutes to sort the wheat from the chaff but it means that all this unsolicited effluent is bounced and with a false address at that. Hi.

## THE LADDER

Unforgivable of me but I failed to note the July results last month. Here the annual results for 2003 are lumped together with July being in the first pair and August in the second pair of columns:

Call	Points	Call	Points
G4LHI	344	G4LHI	391
G3VQO	218	G3VQO	230
G4AQZ	214	M0AYI	227
M5ABN	187	G4AQZ	214
M0AYI	185	M5ABN	212
G0MRH	182	G0MRH	190
M5AGL	129	M5AGL	149
M0RHB	108	M0RHB	132
HB9CHE	105	OH7QR	108
OH7QR	90	HB9CHE	105
M0DRK	81	M0DRK	103
M0CMQ	63		
M0BRY	28		
G0SOP	24		
GW0SGG	17		
M3XGQ	16		
M3GBT	13		
G0XAH	10		

G4LHI was squeezed into second place in the July monthly stakes by G3VQO whilst G0MRH held third place. Bob, M5AGL noted that conditions were again difficult with holiday season points not easy to find, reminding us also that the ladder is open to all UK/EU Fists members so please lets have some more logs from those members who pop up just to give points to those taking part. During August, conditions improved a little and he thanks those who have taken part and hopes the improvement continues.

## ODDS N' ENDS

John WA9AQN, received the rather belated info re the documentary on 'the secret war' and points us in the direction of his item on the ARRL website recounting a trip to the UK:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2003/08/13/1/> and in the meantime, John Forest (VA3USN/XJF) is seeking support of the NA brigade to quash the intentions of Parks Canada to classify the warship HMCS Haida to that of a static display thus bringing to an end Amateur Radio activities from the ship. The station has been active for the past 6 years and has successfully contacted a number of WW2 museum ships.

David G3ZPF points us towards <[www.raota.supanet.com](http://www.raota.supanet.com)>, the new RAOTA website in which he has included a link to FISTS. Whether you are a RAOTA member or not, it is quite an interesting browse.

Nancy has submitted a petition to the FCC for retention of the Morse requirement and also calls for a reversal of the trend

towards dumbing down the licence requirements. Details on [www.fists.org](http://www.fists.org) or ftp download :

[www.qsl.net/n1ea/FIST\\_FCC\\_Petition\\_8-30-303.pdf](http://www.qsl.net/n1ea/FIST_FCC_Petition_8-30-303.pdf)

In the last few weeks there has been regular input from various FISTS clubs indicating their support in the C2C event which immediately followed the SKW. Hope things were better within the US for the occasion but after I activated GX0IPX for the occasion there were only half a dozen takers before 15m closed down.

### G0JLX MORSE PRACTICE

As many members will know, I get involved with the local Scout group every year for JOTA during October, and as we are fast approaching 'the date' as well as the end of the first CW tutorial period I have been running, I thought you'd appreciate knowing that on Thursday 16th October and Monday 20th October 2003, there will be NO CW PRACTICE Tx from my /p QTH in Epsom. Secondly, my Epsom landlords of 3.5 years are on the move towards the sea on the south coast fairly soon, so I am moving within Epsom. That involves getting the W3EDP down off the fence and trellis work as well as physically moving everything across to the new /p QTH in Epsom. So, as a result, from Monday the 27th October until Thursday 30th October inclusive, there will be NO CW PRACTICE Tx from my /p QTH in Epsom as the station will be in bits. I hope to have completed a couple of weeks of 20 wpm by then, so the course will have reached its natural conclusion anyway, and I expect (hope) to have the station re-assembled and operational again for Monday 3rd November 2003, when we will re-start with 5 wpm for the newcomers, working our way up slowly to 20 wpm eventually. Anybody wanting an update on the position is welcome to try either tuning into 3.595 or 3.590 MHz CW from 1725 GMT to see if I am present, or by phoning me on my mobile (07768 282880).

### ALTERNATIVE CALLS

Two alternative calls have been noted; GX7000 and G7ROY. The first is an alternative for GX0000 and the other an alternative for G4SSH.

The calls GX0000, 2E0000, G4SSH, GX7000 and G7ROY have been active in the SKW on a one-a-day basis. The Scarborough gang will be activating all in future events and perhaps also when there is nothing particular running. All the club calls count 3 points to Century. During the SKW period, well over 100 members were contacted and six of them acquired the full house of five different calls.

Also please note that my run-away fingers have been at it again and the club call MX4ERG should be MX0ERG. Uuuuugh there's never a dull moment. Hi.

Please note a change of call from M3NPB to M0RZZ. Well done that man!

Tony M3XGQ wishes to operate under his original call (G8XGQ) using his allocated number of 8949.

### THE BLUE UNIFORM

That description could apply to the Police, Fire Services or any number of organisations but Peter G0FVS uses it as a title to a well constructed 36 page book with glossy cover tracing his early start firing a steam loco (hauling essential weapons and other heavyweight kit from the Midlands to the docks) during the war. His desire to join the blue clad band in the RAF was frustrated because he was doing an 'essential' job but this excuse was no longer valid when the war ended. The book leads the reader on a fascinating trail from Egypt to Greece with hints of political goings on in that country following the end of the occupation. Tnks for the signed copy Peter.

### NYC AND POLICE QRGs

From Jack WB2FXK, an interesting little item:

*A New York court has dismissed a misdemeanor charge against ARRL member Richard C. "Dick" Lalone, KC5GAX, for violating §397 of that state's Vehicle and Traffic Law. That section prohibits individuals other than law officers from equipping their vehicles with radios "capable of receiving signals on the frequencies allocated for police use" without first securing a permit. The section, which also prohibits knowingly interfering*

*with police transmissions, contains an explicit exemption for "any person who holds a valid amateur radio operator's license . . . and who operates a duly licensed portable mobile transmitter and in connection therewith a receiver or receiving set on frequencies exclusively allocated . . . to duly licensed radio amateurs."*

*In a nearly 1300-word decision, Judge John J. Hallet said it was clear the legislature never intended the provisions of §397 from applying to licensed Amateur Radio operators, and he dismissed the charge August 5. Susan Terry, KF4SUE, a former New York assistant attorney general, represented Lalone. ARRL President*

*Jim Haynie, W5JBP, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist John Hennessee, N1KB, provided advice or assistance to Lalone.*

There are of course many significant differences in practice between the Radio Amateur and government bodies in various countries of the world but this business about a Radio Amateur seemingly operating legally on police QRGs is new to me. Hi.

### THE DX STUFF

Oct 1/8, Palau, T88ZX, Emphasis on WARC

Oct 3/17, Turkey, TA4, Mode not specified

Oct 4/11, Christmas Island, focus on lo bands & WARC

Oct 4/12, Virgin Islands, NP2SH

Oct 4/17, Seychelles, S79NS

Oct 9/16, Micronesia, V63ZT

Oct 11/26, Kermadec, ZM8CW

Oct 13/27, Christmas Island, VK9XYL

Oct 17/Nov 1, Easter Island, CE0Y

Oct 20/28, San Andreas Island, HK0

Oct 21/Nov 02, Gambia, C5

Other DX stuff has been noted but mode not specified. Interesting to note that much of this stuff is QRV on the WARC bands.

### RAIN REPORT

In our series of programs examining some of the arguments for and against retaining the Morse code exam as part of the FCC's Amateur Radio testing process. Last week we heard from the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) regarding their petition (RM#10787) that proposes to eliminate the code exam entirely. This week we'll hear from Fists, a pro code organization that boasts upwards of 10,000 members worldwide. Its chair and driving force is Worldradio Magazine editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C. RAIN's Founder/Producer, Hap Holly, KC9RP, recently spoke with Kott about the Fists petition. (17 minutes). We're working on bringing you a third and final program delving into the complexities of the issues as they apply to the possible elimination of the code from the U.S. Amateur Radio testing process. These RAIN Reports are available via terrestrial dial-up at 847-827-RAIN as well as from [rainreport.com](http://rainreport.com).

You may consider it odd that over in the US, petitions are invited in the case of the no-code issue whereas in the UK, the decision seems to be taken and acted upon without further consultation but you must remember that the United Kingdom is a 'democratic country'. Hmmm!

### WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

A belated reminder from Rebecca Hodge of the fund's annual competition for Radio Amateurs Transmission.

The contests have been held for the past 11 years in which Radio Amateurs are challenged to raise as much money as they possibly can through sponsorship. The individual and club that tops the list is rewarded I suspect through donations from commercial sources.

You may recall that in previous years, 1st place (individual) was achieved by a FISTS member.

The challenge for Clubs in 2003 would be to better the achievements of the Cray Valley R.S. who have held top spot for the past two years.

Unfortunately the event took place 20/21 September and the supporting bump arrived too late for inclusion in Keynote. I hope Rebecca will remind us earlier in future years since, with our significant membership numbers it is highly likely that the charity will receive further support.

## THE OCCASIONAL SHOCK!

Someone, I thought, must be pretty mad by now. They were expecting a cheque for £200.00 and all they got was a fiver. I rang Jimmy (G3HBN) to explain that he had made the most expensive kokup and had sent me £200.00 for his subs with any excess to be treated as a donation to the club funds. As is usual in these sort of circumstances, the phone was diverted to the message recording centre so I left a brief request for him to contact me asap. This he did later that evening explaining that since he had spent a lot of time in hospital, he had been denied the pleasures of his second favourite hobby of spending money and was therefore somewhat 'loaded'. The same gesture I understand was extended to the G-QRP club. I receive variously weighted donations regularly but this one broke the mold. It is fortunate that no-one was on hand with a feather or I would be lying on my back. Tnks Jimmy.... most generous of you!

## QSL CARDS

There is some confusion out there people. Some folks just don't believe that the cards are personalised in the first place and in many cases, I have actually had requests for cards which did not contain any identity. Principle info required is **Call sign** (of course), The **FISTS Number**, **Name** and **Address** saves me having to open the database, and any other affiliations which you wish to add. I am often asked to include CC number, email address, WAB and location. This is no problem provided this additional information does not overcrowd the cards. Makes 'em look very untidy. Many forget the postal costs. I ask you only for £1.00 (per 200 cards) though in actual fact the Post Office screw us for around £1.38 - and that is second class. Postal costs for Europe and DX are of course in excess of this which is why I ask those members to consult first. All orders direct to HQ with cheques payable simply to FISTS. Now you won't forget will you?

# G4ZPY

## KEYS AND PADDLES

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e-mail: [g4zpy@lineone.net](mailto:g4zpy@lineone.net)

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

## THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

This has been one of those months and there was not a great deal of actual news coming through the letterbox.

**G4RWP.** Eddie would like to acknowledge assistance of G3MCK in getting up and running on 80/40m. The resultant inverted vee that Gerald described produces a 1:1 vswr on both bands. Gerald failed to include his address with the advisory letter so Eddie QSPs his thanks via Keynote.

**M0KIM.** Ken saw 72 candles on his last birthday. I mention this because he points out that he passed his RAE last December. What was all that about old dogs and new tricks?

Well that's pretty much the lot believe it or not. I guess there was so much concentration on the SKW and resultant twingy wrists that it proved to be a chore worth dodging. Hi.

## POWER LINE DATA XMSNS AGAIN

Jack WB2FXK shunted a QST report to my in-box in which it is reported that AMSAT (North America) has reiterated their condemnation of the idea.

*AMSAT North America has told the FCC that it wants no part of B-P-L- and it has said it twice. Once in comments filed with the regulatory agency in July and in reply comments in August. In both cases AMSAT tells the FCC that it is against proposals to allow Broadband over Power Line systems to proliferate. Amateur Radio Newslines Bruce Tennant, K6PZW,*

is here with more:

*In its filings, AMSAT says that it agrees with the American Radio Relay League's finding that Broadband Over Powerline or B-P-L is a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions. Once deployed, AMSAT says the consumer's expectations will be such as to preclude termination of the service. It says that interference problems, both to and from B-P-L, will inevitably be both widespread and impossible as a practical matter to rectify.*

*AMSAT says it bluntly. Amateur and amateur-satellite services cannot be protected from interference from B-P-L. Also that B-P-L cannot be protected from interference from HF and VHF amateur radio stations.*

*The ham radio space agency also maintains that the rules must insure that B-P-L is not permitted to operate in or near any amateur radio allocation. If B-P-L is permitted at all, any changes in amateur radio allocations must immediately trigger retroactive modifications to B-P-L facilities to delete any use of amateur radio frequencies. In addition, spurious emissions from B-P-L facilities must be substantially attenuated below current Part 15 levels.*

*In the end, AMSAT says that it joins ARRL in respectfully requesting that the Commission take no steps to permit access or in-building Broadband Over Powerline at H-F or V-H-F. At least, not at this time.*

*For the Amateur Radio Newslines, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.*

*The complete text of all AMSAT FCC filings are posted at <http://www.amsat.org/amsat/amsat-na/filings/index.html> AMSAT-NA).*

*This is followed by a report that the Eire authorities are dipping their toes in to test the water:*

**RADIO LAW: IRTS OBJECTS TO BPL IN IRELAND**

*Meantime, B-P-L may soon be coming to Erin's Isle. That's where Power Line Transmission Ireland has announced that it will begin experiments in broadband over powerline connections in October.*

*Now comes word that IRTS which is that nations Amateur Radio society has been in touch with Irish communications regulators. I-R-T-S has expressed the concern of Irelands ham community that these experiments are now going ahead. It has also requested regulators ensure that B-P-L can only be permitted in Ireland on a strict non-interference basis with other radio services. (GB2RS)*

*As the debate grows it begging to look as if everyone has something to say about the issue of Broadband Over Powerlines or BPL. Now, even comic characters are chiming in. Yes, we said comic characters. In this case it is none other than the character Dilbert and from the text that accompanies the strip, the cartoonist is none to happy with the B- P-L idea.*

*This one you will need to judge for yourself. You can find it in cyberspace at <http://www.comics.com/comics/dilbert/archive/dilbert-20030908.html> (W9JUV).*

The only saving grace here is that (as reported a couple of months back from the Netherlands) CW can live with it - or at least tolerate it. Yet another point in favour of the 'know code' brigade.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*QTC from Ray, F6BQV, UFT's Chairman*

*Dear colleagues and friends,*

*Would you, for the EUCW societies whom you are President or trustee, inform your members about the 3rd EUCW 160 meters party, sponsored by the Union Française des Télégraphistes (UFT), which will be on the air on the first week end of January 2004. We hope numerous of them in this contest.*

*Let our fingers sing a song on this band once more.*

*Thanks in advance and regards.*

*73/88 from Ray, F6BQV.*

I had to put this one in this month because of my shocking memory and the likelihood that by December it would be forgotten. I know we don't have too many members with the real estate for 160m antennas (seemed only yesterday that everyone had a quarter wave L/W for that band) but these days it is a sadly under-used segment of our allocation.

## G3TUX

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Phone 01428-661501 FAX 07974 214320

### SILENT KEY

A brief indication that her father had passed away recently but no details from the daughter of G0TCM.

### NEW MEMBERS

They are coming in fits and starts recently. Hi.  
09853 G4ARI Tim 09854 CO6TM Tom  
09855 MOKWV Martin

Tom is our first Cuban station I think!

### BQ9

CTARL( Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League) just received official documents today (landing permission by Ministry of Defense) and finally got everything in order.

The BQ9P Pratas Island expedition will taking place on Oct 7 to 16, 2003. we expect starting on air at 10:00Z on Oct 07 and QRT at 01:00Z on Oct 16 and at least two antennas to setup before dark in the first day. and will setup 5 stations in total. 6-160m + WARC bands, CW/SSB/RTTY/SSTV/PSK31.

QRG for most DX window (+/- QRM) .

Operators:

BV4FH, BV3FG, BV3BW.

DL3DXX, DK7YY, JI6KVR, ZL4PO, OE1WHC, N2OO

QSL manager for BQ9P : Steve KU9C.

BQ9P 2003 Official web-page <http://www3.ocn.ne.jp/~iota/newpage64.htm>

Please feel free if you have any questions that I can help you from my end.

Best regards Paul. BV4FH

### FRENCH EXPO

For the 25th anniversary, and in Pierre Michel, F9AF's memory, the F5KCC ARS with about 20 operators will aired the special call sign TM9AF, from the 12th to 26th of October.

The activities are scheduled from 160 to 6 meters in CW, PSK, RTTY, SSB, SSTV and from 144 to 1.2 ghz in CW, FM, RTTY, SSB, ATV. They will entry also the CQ WW SSB Contest.

### SPRINT

The 2nd Saturday in October finds the CW leg of the EU Sprint contest running. This one could be interesting since the CQ caller having snared a reply surrenders the QRG to the station who called him and so on. Thanks to Maurice, F5NQL for both the above items.

### A WELCOME TO AUTUMN

In the next few weeks it is hoped that the abysmal conditions we have been experiencing on the HF bands will have eased. At least the trees are shedding their leaves which, although it may be a cause for some optimism for ourselves will probably be viewed less enthusiastically by our rail networks. This re-inforces the the axiom that what is good news for some is not good news for all.

Autumn is also the time of the year when the licence becomes due and the collection agency has again sent me a demand for £0.00. Whilst at first I was rather bemused by this, a recent communication with them made things clearer. I am expected to acknowledge the seemingly pointless exercise more or less to prove that I am still within the realm of the living and therefore

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

it would be appropriate to continue with the call sign. Well at least there is some profit to be made by exceeding the magic figure of 75 candles. Hi.

### MOON VALLEY

CW DX operation from "Valle Fertil" near Moon Valley in San Juan province, Argentina.

Operators are GACW members Héctor LU6UO/P - Fernando LW2DX/P and Alberto LU1DZ/P.

Date: from October 2nd. to 6th.

Moon Valley Towards the east, Valle Fertil is one of the most beautiful and picturesque departments of the province, with a lovely landscape of sierras and cactus, its attractive city and its dam. It is the gateway to the Ischigualasto Provincial Park, also known as Valle de la Luna (Moon Valley).

The above information comes via the ever watchful eye of Maurice, F5NQL.

### ODDS 'N ENDS

I apologise if I appear to have been a little lax of late. Much of the traffic that would normally be turned around pdq has been quietly slid onto the back burner since so much of my time is spent visiting Ivy in hospital. My thanks to all of you who sent those kind messages of sympathy and support. Sadly, the lass seems to have shown little or no improvement since being admitted a few weeks ago and is the cause of much concern. Were it not for my son-in-law who drives me over each evening, it would be a very time consuming and expensive period. Amateur radio has been something of a tonic here since I am able to get on the key and generally unwind and this experience is one which I know is shared by so many of you. Old Sam may not have intended his communication system to have been so but it most certainly works better than a psychiatrists couch.

Having found himself in 'stir' and dining on porridge, the inmate received a ring-bound binder from his wife containing a doughnut. "Here" she said "is a file with a cake in it. Sorry I couldn't manage to do it the other way round". I'm not telling you who dumped this one into my mailbox but I will surely get my own back some how.

### MORSUM MAGNIFICAT

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### FINALE

Sorry about this folks but in the current situation I am finding it difficult to write. Keeping my fingers crossed that things improve and as usual, will be on the bands whenever possible. 73/88 and stay sober.

Geo