

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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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>
written logs to HQ. No charges and no return
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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.

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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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M0ZAK jim.steel@ntlworld.com

delighted as myself to make the first log entry and 5 points to boot. Sometimes, persistence really does pay. Hi.

A couple of letters in the US Memo captured my attention. Both were quitting FISTS and for the same reasons: QRQ. Both were habitual QRS operators who's CQ calls were answered at an unreasonable rate of knots. In one case, when asked to QRS, the tormentor simply speeded up and (presumably at a more moderate speed) suggested "Go to the Novice bands slow boy". These may be rare cases which is to be applauded because they are doing absolutely nothing for the cause. We are meant to be encouraging CW and if folks are steered away from using it until they reach a fictitious goal of 30wpm then what happens when we run out of greyhounds? I must confess that I hear thankfully nothing of this sort of thing. You will hear inter-club QRQ for sure but this is only between members who are aware of each others capability. Faced with QRS, the likes of G3LIK, G0VTN and others to name but a few, take a sensible approach and modify their speed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO KJ6KQ

Whilst the bands may not exactly be awash with active hams in their 70's 80's or even 90's, they are there in modest numbers. However, Bill Diaper KJ6KQ may well have created a world record by finding 104 candles on his birthday cake.

BILL WINDLE QSO PARTY

From 0000 to 2359 on 16 October. Use all six HF Bands (not WARC) and call CQ BW. Contacts once per band only.

Exchange RST and Name; FOC members will include their FOC number.

Totals by e-mail to KZ5D@aol.com by 23 October. Final listing will be posted on the FOC website <www.firstclasscw.org> and on www.contesting.com.

PROFICIENCY CERT

It took quite a bit of organising on behalf of Gordon, GM7RYK but he is at last in possession of a Cert for 20wpm via the Livingston ARC.

In the meantime, an e-mail from G4BUO indicates that aside from the Livingston gang, G0GFG who wishes to organise tests in the NorthEast, is the only glimmer of life from the test teams. Disappointing to say the least but perhaps it is a start?

NUMBER RE-ASSIGNED

David, GW0OPT #02852 to GW0UKF Janet following a letter advising me of the passing of her husband. As an ex maritime W/O David's first love radio-wise was CW and Janet has indicated her wish to continue to support us. Apart from the re-assignment of 00002 (G2AKK) to my own callsign in order to provide a unique number to GX0IPX, I think this is the first occasion when this has happened.

Needless to say, I extend our sincere commiserations to Janet and our thanks for her continued support of his favourite mode.

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, BARNESLEY, 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. Any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL postage unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

Oh the frustration of it. There was the straight key week running... lots of members to work and I was too ashamed to take part. The position of my right arm needed to pound the old key and it's height on the bench was such as to cause extreme discomfort in a dicky shoulder causing the most abysmal code. Ah well! Perhaps it will improve with time.

21.058 was it's usual silent self but LF around 21.030 suddenly produced a JA station at around 589 so, beam to JA and back to 21.058 with a CQ call. Almost immediately the float bobbed with a JA call followed by a further seven one of which was FISTS member JJ1XET with just 40 plus points and no doubt as

PACEMAKERS AND RF

Bill G4LQO phoned me some time ago asking if I knew of any member running with a pacemaker and operating. I had to confess that although I had heard of this it was many years ago and as far as I was aware, it had no negative effects.

I take it we are dealing with the same bit of plumbing though Bill refers to it as an ICD (Implanted Cardio Defibrillator) and when he questioned the staff at London's Kings College Hospital about this he was told in no uncertain terms that he could no longer continue as an amateur radio operator. This restriction was also applied to other activities or equipment (airport scanners as well as faulty micro-wave ovens) for instance.

For the past few months his demeanour has been affected negatively since he began to suffer 'withdrawal symptoms' on being unable to pursue his favourite hobby rendering him virtually unapproachable by all his friends.

His final act was to contact the ARRL who proved very helpful and after exchanging many emails he was advised in writing by the manufacturers of the device that he could resume his hobby with certain restrictions namely that his TX antenna must be greater than 10 feet away, key to be a full arms-length away and that he MUST use his right hand. Mic (what's that?) to be kept away from the left side of his chest etc., so he is again QRV with his mag loop from 30 to 10m and presumably has adopted a more sociable attitude with his friends. Hi.

He expresses his gratitude to the ARRL (he is not a RSGB member) for their help in the matter and has forwarded all information on to the appropriate department of Kings College Hospital in the event that they should they be presented with the same conditions again. He is now chasing the final 28 CC holders for his platinum.

ENCRYPTION

I am frequently at a loss to intuitively read some of the details on application forms (the main culprit being longhand when upper case chars would be more appropriate), and find myself having to scan the form for a word which contains characters which are giving me a problem. I have on occasions, even been obliged to resort to the telephone in the name of accuracy.

It is of course a standing joke that only dispensing chemists who presumably take an extended course in decyphering the handwriting of doctors can read hand-written prescriptions so it was something of a shock when following a recent visit to my plumber I presented a prescription for supplementary tablets to more effectively control the old Blood Sugar Level. The unfortunate chappy approached me and said "I am sorry there will be some delay because I have had to fax the doctor to clarify his prescription - I just can't read it". Hmmm! makes you wonder doesn't it?

DE 6YFWJ

Queried Nancy concerning those US members who found themselves in the path of Hurricane Ivan. Seems she is waiting to hear from any such unfortunates but QSPs this from Josh, 6Y5WJ directed to Stan, K4UK:

I've got a few minutes to send this email and let you know that all is OK with us here. I know that you were aware of the past hurricanes Charlie and Ivan. Well Charlie was a strong one that dumped over 10 inches of rain on us and caused idespread flooding. Several people lost their lives and helicopters had to rescue people from their roof-tops.

Ivan was a devastating hurricane that passed on the south side (where we are) and literally flattened anything in its way, including antennas of all kinds, even the commercial ones.

It started early on the 10th of September in Kingston and lingered for 24 hours moving along a path 60 miles south of Jamaica at only about 8 MPH. Wind speeds for the outer wall (50-80 miles) was measured at 160 MPH with higher gusts.

With my weather station information I played a small part on 14.325 the HWN but battoned down when wind speeds started to exceed 80MPH, just before homes had their roofs ripped off and flung up to half a mile away. Vegetation, including large trees were uprooted, and torn to shreds. Power line poles 20 inches in diameter were snapped like matchsticks and livestock were found pinned to rocks and trees with their skins torn off. We were extremely lucky, we suffered superficial roof damage

but flooded out in three rooms. I bailed at least 150 gallons of water from one of the three bedrooms as water cascaded down the walls. Our outside walls were stripped of paint and anything that was not nailed down was flown away.

The aftermath saw all roads blocked either with debris or fallen trees and the PM called a state of emergency. People are only just coming out of designated shelters to find their homes gone. It will take a very long time to recover from this one and people are already bracing themselves until the end of the hurricane season, which should end some time in November/December. Bear in mind hurricane Jeane and Karl are both out there developing towards Puerto Rico and there are predictions for at least another 9 more heading into the Caribbean basin.

I thought our house would not survive Ivan being perched on the south side of the Santa Cruz mountain range and very much open to high winds and adverse weather conditions. However, there's a hill directly behind and to the east side of us that gave some shelter. Our only structural damage was to one end of the "Decra Tile" roofing that we have, where one end started to lift and let in water. Had the storm continued another hour or two, the roof would certainly have gone west.

Anyway, we are safe, dry and not hungry, although food is fast becoming short, because the electricity was turned off island wide, due to the danger of the fallen lines.

We do have our electric generator but we are hopeful that in a few days, the mains electricity will be switched back on. The same goes for the land line phones and although cellular phones were a great help during the storm, they're only now getting back to normal.

This is an experience I don't ever want again, not for me personally so much, but for those that emerged from the shelters to find nothing left of their homes and livelihood.

Well that's the report for now Old Boy, I'll wait for your reply and in the meantime get back out there helping those less fortunate. Take it easy. Josh 6Y5WJ

PS: I'm back on air with the generator, but only with a G5RV and then only for short periods.

Makes our paltry 50-60 mph breezes look somewhat insignificant doesn't it?

AUGUST LADDER RETURNS.

AUG 04.		TOTAL SCORES.	
CALL.	PNTS.	CALL.	PNTS.
G4LHI.	36	G4LHI.	314
GW4HDB.	25	M5ABN.	178
M0RHB.	17	M0RHB.	152
M0CMQ.	16	G0VSS.	108
OH7QR.	14	M3GBT.	81
GI4CBG.	11	GI4CBG.	78
M0DRK.	11	M0DRK.	73
GU4HUY.	8	2E0EUK.	67
GX2HDF.	6	M5BRY.	61
2E0EUK.	5	M0CMQ.	61
M5AGL.	2.	OH7QR.	52
		GX2HDF.	49
		GU4HUY.	47
		M5AGL.	46
		GW4HDB.	42
		G8XGQ.	16
		PA3AFF.	4

Conditions were a slight improvement on last month, even so contacts seemed hard to find. Many thanks for the returns and your comments for next years ladder, I hope to publish the full list of contests and dates by November.

73's for now, Bob M5AGL.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G0IIK. "It's nice that the club is growing" says Nigel but "WHERE ARE THEY ALL HIDING?". Well, I guess that when you tune round 40m and find it populated predominantly by strong signals from Europe and the only 'G' stations audible are likely to be well down in the S points then such questions become almost inevitable. Had to offer a final kindness to his much loved bitch recently but the void she left has now been filled by a new pup who is running him ragged.

MW3EBS. After a stroke a few years ago, Ted's left hand seems to have a mind of its own but it now seems to have come round to his way of thinking with much improvement in inter-char spacing. 05/09/04 20m found VR2XMT (on phone) with K4VWR and PS8HF on CW. Nae so bad when the rig runs 10W to a G5RV/2.

G4SSH. Roy was among many who 'dropped a line' to Gian (I2VRF) last month which was answered with a run down of his current conditions. Muscles progressively degenerating in legs, fingers and wrist and impossible to rise from a chair without help or to climb the stairs. Family bought him a portable PC which he uses sitting on the bed and indeed, the stationery (a QSL card) was among the first items of correspondence which Gian produced with the laptop.

INTERNATIONAL LISTENERS ASSOC

Roy (G4SSH) updates me with a letter from Trevor (GW4OXB) for the International Listeners Association which, due to a rapid decline in membership, he has been forced to discontinue. The reasons for this is cited as a necessary increase in subs from £5.00 to £6.00 which some members found just too much, a reduction in the number of short wave listeners and other members becoming licensed and therefore no longer being interested in Listener topics. An item headed "A sign of things to come - or not" he points out that:

At one time it was the norm for anyone interested in attaining their amateur licence to spend some time as a SWL gaining experience in the way Amateur Radio was conducted, picking up knowledge of propagation and learning procedures or even the Morse code.

Today it is all too easy to learn the basic radio licence requirements and, with no need to learn Morse then why bother?

There is also the matter of mobile phone enabling people to communicate easily with no interference and even the ability to send text or images.

The home computer presents another problem. Not only are licensed amateurs able to use systems such as echolink to span the world with a hand held 2m transceiver but even unlicensed people are able to talk world-wide.

So what is the future of shortwave listening and even the hobby itself? Bob Treacher who has written his column in RadCom for many years has discontinued his long running SWL Challenge and his 'All Time DXCC table' had only one entry in July.

With the ever improving technology, I feel that amateur radio has probably had its day. Some will continue experimenting but with the amateur licence available so easily there can be little encouragement to build your own equipment.

Ted's doom-laden missive is in many ways reflective of what has been happening in the hobby over the last decade or so, some of which (though precious little) is beneficial and if Ted views CW and QRP as being among the few remaining links with the way the hobby used to be then this is very understandable especially now that data modes appear to be the flavour of the month. I remain puzzled though about what exactly your run-of-the-mill ham does with the megabytes of data he is able to download with these modes!

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.

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41 Mill Dam Lane, Burscough, ORMSKIRK, L40 7TG

Tel: 01704-894299

e-mail: g4zpy@g4zpy.co.uk

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

HELP !

G3ICH. Any member got an interesting junk box? Pete is looking for a Heath HB10b VFO. I know some of this museum type kit is not easy to get hold of so keeping fingers crossed. Hi.

NEW MEMBERS

10842 MW0RZC	George	10843 M0AUI	Roger
10844 GW4MTE	Richard	10845 DL5XL	Felix
10846 M0DBW	Jim	10847 IZ0EHR	Augusto
10848 GW0ONU	Dennis	10849 EI2EO	Mike
10850 TF3KJ	Karl		

OOOPS!

Geo

Thanks for the September Keynote. However please note my call in the RSGB 80m CC which you have kindly reported is M0CMQ not M0CHQ.

In my opinion the RSGB activity is excellent for the experience on 80m on SSB, DATA and CW. 3 slots every month from January to July.

73 de Mark M0CMQ.

Here we go again! The old mince pies are not functioning as they used to I guess. One of the group of FISTS offices in the US suggested that I make use of the bottoms of empty Coca-Cola bottles but I tried this on a previous occasion and all I could see was the Coca-Cola logo and a short message: "OPEN OTHER END"

NEW MEMS AND CALL CHANGES E/A

From Jean, JL3SIK of the E. Asia chapter:

New members

15010 BM1BAE Will

15011 BM1BNY Lin

Callsign change

member#	old call	new call
08980	BV2WV	BX2AM
08981	BV2WR	BX2AN
08982	BV2WH	BX2AL
08983	BV2WT	BX2AJ
15003	BV1EI	BX1AC

They were changed their callsign because of license upgrade. Jean JL3SIK

K4UK

When the bands are poor and the weather is nice I attend to my "OTHER" hobbies such as; plumbing (under the house), putting in new house windows, painting the exterior of the house, remodelling the kitchen, remodelling the dining room, remodelling the back bathroom (down to the wall studs), and then paint the interior of the house. About the only thing I do enjoy from my original statement about summer is the ice-cold 807's! What's that you say, what do I do when the weather is poor? I get to enjoy my most favorite hobby of all, . . . repairing the family cars, which is usually done late Sunday night in the rain! Well, I think I've just about covered everything . . . except Sunday (just after the hardware store is closed) "Honey, something's wrong with the washing machine . . ."

Sound familiar?

THE DX STUFF

October looks pretty sparse. There are lots of announced fixtures but few specifically CW but here goes:

Oct 03-17, Seychelles, S79

Oct 15-23, Chesterfield Islands, TX/c

Oct 20-Nov 02, Gambia, C5

Oct 23-Nov 02, St Pierre & Miquelon, FP

Oct 25-Nov 09, Western Kiribati, T30T, WARC QRP

Oct 29-Nov 03, Palau, T88QQ

F5NQL

Algerian dxpedition per Spanish ops. Callsign confirmed as 7W0AD. Oct 2-9.

EI5IF / EL2PM in Liberia

Pat Molloy EI5IF who is currently serving with the Irish Army contingent in Liberia has finally succeeded in obtaining a Liberian licence. Listen out for him over the next three months using his new call - EL2PM.

From the CFT, Belgian CW Club - European CW Association - EUCW

The first contest organized by the EUCW, "Club Francophone Télégraphiste, CFT" which was scheduled for September 19th had been postponed to avoid interferences with the Scandinavian Activity Contest which happens for years on the 3rd week end of September.

So would you bookmark your diarie as follow :

The Contest will happen on the next November 2004, 11th, from 0500 to 1500 UTC.

This contest is "Open", so all EUCW Clubs members and all the other are welcome and invited to enter this competition.

More information and rules are available in French, English and Flemish languages on the CFT Web pages at

<http://www.on5cft.be.tf/>

The CFT thanks everyone for forwarding and publishing this add as largely as possible.

Japanese IOTA

JA1SKY/6. Steve plans to operate from Kuroma-shima island (AS-024) Oct14-18.

JR2KK/6 plans to operate from the Yonoguni island (AS-024) JIIA-AS-024-014 Yaeyama Arc from Oct 19 Hateruma Island Oct 22 (AS-024) JIIA AS-024-001

JA4GXS/4. Kenji plans to operate from the No-shima island (AS-117) JIIA-AS-117-106 Yamaguchi Pre from September 26. Activity will be on 15, 20, 30, 40 and 80 meters SSB and CW

GM0ERV/GM0NTR

Hi George, long time no speak or hear! We put on a mobile station for the Lighthouse weekend and this a picture of Jim Harrison, GM0NTR having a couple of cw contacts. Note the key strapped to his leg. He has an ad. in Keynote to sell an Icom rig so I told him that if you would put it in next month's issue, he could add my email address for anyone to contact as he does not have a phone, not even a mobile! I think it is a stumbling block if anyone wants to contact him. So if you wouldn't mind doing that please for next month.

Hope all is well. Not been in the shack much lately but hoping to get back in the winter when hopefully things will improve a bit. Off to Rhodes for a month in Sept/Oct. and then it will be well into the autumn/winter and dark nights - Ugh! 73/88 de Shirley GM0ERV.

Sri Shirley. Couldn't do anything with that piccy. Nice and sharp, well lit and focused but the image of Jim was miniscule and when isolated for enlarging was pixelated.

MPP TEAM

Tony G0OPB, will not be available for the Leicester rally but will be on hand to help any organised test groups at the HF convention.

ARSONIST AT LARGE

Now here's an odd one. An arsonist with a grudge against radio has burned down the home of a Vancouver, Washington ham. T'would seem this guy has some sort of a grudge against radio in general and has thus far targeted governmental and commercial installations. Recently however he set a fire at the base of the tower of a Vancouver WA radio ham which ignited the feed lines and spread upwards, the fiery melting material falling onto the house causing serious damage. Local hams are understandably somewhat worried.

G4KKI AND PANDA

Busy modifying an old HW7 for /P operation.

Also Geo I have acquired an old Panda Cub Tx, which I hope to use at the club in Walkden with a Racal Rx I have there, the Panda Cub is in working order and looks very nice, I wonder if you could put a small plea for help in the next Keynote as I have no circuit or operating instructions for it. There are a couple of switches on the back panel which I am not sure about and a pair of wires attached to a chocolate block connector, I have a feeling they may be to power a changeover relay for TX/RX.

OK Geo all the best for now 73 de Bill G4KKI 7709

G0TMX WITH HELPING HANDS

I have finally submitted a claim to Dennis for my CC award. It has taken over 10 years to get, after Jim G0FVS (#628) got me

started in all this back in June '93!! I think I can put it down to the fact I have not worked any US FIST's nor any juicy DX members either, so I have been going up in ones, with the odd "special" HI!

Anyway, thought it might be of interest in the "Strawberry Basket" but in particular may I thank G4ZIB (Tony #811) and G4AQZ (Geoff #7768) who were earwiggling on my QSO with G0OUI (Bill #888), who also only had 3 points to get his CC. Tony & Geoff made an effort to call me, to push me through the 100 mark, and I am indebted to them both!! I await to see if my application meets with Dennis's approval. vy 73 de Terry, G0TMX #1862.

PHILADELPHIA - NO BPL

Philadelphia's Mayor John Street has a vision to turn this community of historic and diverse neighborhoods into a Digital City. And, he's not looking at Broadband Over Powerline Internet Access to do it.

Instead, Mayor Street, a big fan and user of technology - he carries his own Blackberry everywhere - sees the wireless world as the way to go. He's committed a task force to explore an estimated \$10 million investment in the idea.

"Outdoor wireless has come on the scene and has presented an affordable entry point to create a dense, cellular mesh network that would act like an umbrella over the city," Neff explains. "And it's a transport, it's an outdoor transport that would allow wireless access that then goes to the Internet for all people in the city."

Info QSP via WB2FXK.

40M ALLOCATION

From Tony G4FAI:

Ofcom Proposes to Permit UK Amateurs Access to 7100 - 7200kHz

Ofcom is proposing

(http://www.ofcom.org.uk/licensing_numbering/radiocomms/am_radio/a_r_news/20040923) to vary the Foundation, Intermediate and Full amateur radio licences to permit UK amateurs to operate in the band 7100 to 7200kHz. The band would be allocated to the Amateur Service on a Secondary basis, and would be available on the basis of non-interference to other services, inside or outside the United Kingdom. Ofcom announced a one-month consultation period beginning on 23 September and all licence-holders are invited to make representations to this proposal in writing or by e-mail. Responses should be sent to:

Denise Carter, Ofcom,
2 - 130 Riverside House,
2a Southwark Bridge Road,
London SE1 9HA
or e-mail amateurb@ofcom.org.uk

C2C

It's just one month away. The 4th annual Fists Coast to Coast contest. This year its scheduled for October 24th from 0000Z to 2400Z. That's 24 hours of Fists fun waiting for you.

Contact as many Fists club stations on as many bands as possible. This year we have 2 new catagories. QRP and mobile. Full rules are at http://www.tomochka.com/k7fff/fnw_c2c04.html. Club stations please register by sending an e-mail to fjstsc2c@yahoo.com. Don't delay, register today!

73 Paul NG7Z

Hope conditions will permit EU and other club stations to take part. We have a total of 152 club stations so there's lots to go for.

FINALE

That's just about it for this one people. Band conditions are definitely improving (and about time too) so we can look forward to lots of Autumn activity.

With no return to the question from Nancy it would seem there are not too many members re-erecting antennas and undertaking structural repairs following Ivan. That is not to say however that Jean will not be the cause of some concern.

73/88, take care and stay sober.

Geo