

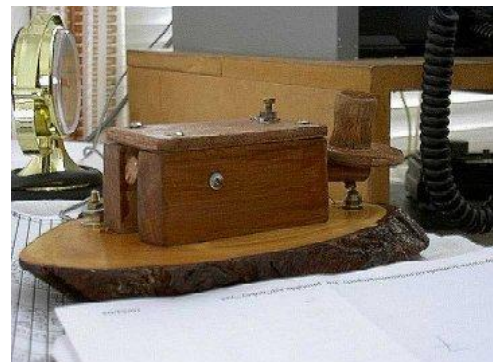
THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY STRAIGHT KEY WEEK 2009 RESULTS.

Welcome.

A good week was had by all participants, members and non-members alike, judging by the comments received. It's always good to see non-members appearing in logs received. They might not be participating, but they're happy to come on and chat with members, and all this means the continuation of the mode we enjoy so much; and of course the aims of our society are brought "on air" to those who are not aware of us, or what we do. It was a pleasure for me to get on air with the GXØIPX (001) and GX3ZQS (002) HQ Station calls for a couple of days during the event, pleased to meet members and give away points to the participants, sorry to those who didn't catch me on; but I'm sure that we'll meet up in the future. Very pleasing to hear/notice many new members active during the week, a mention must go to new member Larry, G4HXL, who, with his QRP set up was active every day, collecting FISTS numbers and giving points away. You've heard me mention before, that FISTS activities are an agreeable place to meet members and work towards the awards offered within the society, I'm sure many of you met other members for the first time, and renewed old acquaintances....Long may this continue.

Let's take a look at some of the reports and images received this year....For the first time since I've been looking after the societies activities, I've received a log from FISTS DU member, Tony ZL2ALJ, after contacting him to say thanks etc. at my request, he sent me some images of his key used, The key used by K4UK, designed and made by Hector. NP4FW for the SKW event was certainly different with the use of a gate hinge, but Tony's has surpassed that somewhat! Take a look at the images of the key, and his report and history behind the key...

Hello Rob Greetings from New Zealand.
Here's my entry for SKW 2009. Sadly more noise than signals heard. 73 to all in the UK.
I'm ex G3LDA from Cheltenham, and 95% CW I hope condx improve soon so I



can have a FISTS mingle. Here are some shots of my wooden key. The whole project was one wet afternoon a few years back. You know the theme - In



spring a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of..... Well an old hams thoughts to turn to sillier things. A fun project for a wet afternoon - a wooden Morse key.

The base is a slice of pine, complete with knot to take the cable. The arm is a piece of dowelling. Some pieces of 1.5x.75 for the side

cheeks, a bit of a broom handle for the knob and a couple of pieces of three ply for the top and fingerplate. A spring from a Bic pen, a few 3BA brass nuts and bolts and a domed nut and not forgetting a couple of washers for spacing and wire clamping.

It worked, had quite a nice feel and so was put in line along with my bug - the straight key is good for those well accentuated letters in hard times.



It's also been used for slower Morse for QSO's with newer amateurs. So that's it - been sending CW since the mid 40's and just about getting used to it now!!! Will be nice when condx pick up and can speak back to Blighty. Have fun and very 73 from Wellington - - de Tony ZL2ALJ.

Now, isn't that unusual? The amateur spirit comes to the foreground again. "Roll your own" Thanks Tony for your entry in SKW. Many thanks for sharing with us your ZL2ALJ "Special"



And From Larry G4HXL

Enclosed my log for SKW 09. All contacts were made with my QRP station comprising Heathkit HW8 and CW 80Mtr Homebrew rig.

Most QSO's on 80Mtrs were 5watts and those on 40 and 20Mtrs 2 watts. I really enjoyed the event and am really looking forward to taking part in the other FISTS events throughout the year. The event was a great way for me to meet other members. Many thanks for your hard work Rob. 73 de Larry G4HXL.



And from Tony, G3ZRJ

Hi Rob,

This is to certify that all operation was by G3ZRJ using a straight key, the key in use was an 8 Amp No2 made in 1940.

Thanks for organising and scoring the event, it was a terrific week, some great natters with some really nice guys in addition to the general fun of operating.

Vy 73 Tony G3ZRJ FISTS 7727

Good to hear from you Tony, for all who didn't make it to the Leicester Radio Rally, G3ZOD, M0BMN, M0CDL and myself were there meeting and greeting members. Tony and XYL Sally came to visit us at the stand. Very pleased to meet you and others during the event.

From Peter. G3JFS

Hello Robert.

Here is my log for the SKW.

Judging by the number of different stations I heard SKW was very successful in creating a lot of activity by FISTS members. There were several stations that seemed to be on no matter what time I came into the shack and if they all submit entries there will be strong competition for the leader board.

Throughout the week I operated QRP with 5 watts output to a 100 ft end fed bit of wire so I made a lot less contacts than the 222 I had as GX0IPX last year. In all I had 118 QSO's including 70 with 30 different members mostly on 80 m which, as usual, carried most of the traffic. Propagation on all of the other bands was mostly very bad but I was pleased to work members M0DRK, PA0FAW on 40m and OH7QR, IK2RMZ, OK1KW on 20m.

Once again the relaxed style of operating was very noticeable and even with QRP I had a lot of contacts which lasted for 10 minutes or more. I am sure a lot of people had an enjoyable week and will be looking forward to next year's event.

73 Peter G3JFS Fists #8985

Always a pleasure to hear from you Peter. Thanks as ever, for your support of the event(s)

From Piet, PA3AFF

Robert,

I missed the EUCW QRS party 2009, but was each day present in the SKW.

Station: TS130V @ 15W, ant endfed Zepp, 41m long, 6m up.

Key: J47, US Army, WW2

Enjoy the log evaluation! 73

Piet Smits, PA3AFF

Missed you in the EUCW Piet, glad you found time to join in the SKW

From Derek. MODRK

Hi Robert Very pleased to be sending in my SKW Log. I very much enjoyed the week popping in now and again as I do. Very good to get the Fists UK HQ Station thanks to your goodself. It was a great pleasure to work many stations that were new to my log, as well as meeting some old friends again. Many thanks to all stations who I worked for the points I gained. Throughout the week, the only antenna that I used was a newly acquired SRC X65MULTI END FED WIRE ANTENNA, only 65 feet long, it fits into my small garden a treat and served me well. At the moment it has replaced my half-size G5RV and gives me 80m ok. Details on Snowdonia Radio Company Website.

Thanks again Robert for all you do for us Fists members, take care, regards.

Derek MODRK

Always a pleasure to receive your log and comments Derek. Glad you enjoyed the event.

And from Graham. G3ZOD

Hi Rob.

Well, this was my first Straight Key Week. I listened out from time-to-time on 40m and 20m but didn't hear anyone. As a result, all of my contacts were on 80m and it was great to hear so much activity there. The propagation seemed to be adequate if not outstanding, although the QSB was fairly severe.

I had contacts with Tony G3ZRJ on all six of the days I was able to participate. He was putting a magnificent signal into North West England, and even when it wasn't S9, it was always a couple of S-points stronger than anyone else I could hear.

It was also a treat to have a contact with you Rob operating as GX0IPX - this is the first time I've managed a contact with a club callsign - excellent, thanks! One day was brought to a temporary halt for me as an S9+10 dB noise level suddenly appeared around 3.558 MHz After cursing all my neighbours (mentally, at least) for their noisy electrical gadgets, it occurred to me to try turning my computer off ... and the noise vanished. The strange thing is that it had been switched on for some time with no problems, so I can't explain why it had suddenly decided to move its QRM from wherever it was previously onto 80m!

Overall the quality of sending I heard was very good. In fact a couple of times I suspected the use of keyers (legal of course for anyone not submitting an entry), but listening long enough showed small tell-tale variations in dot/dash/space lengths that only come from straight keys (shame on me for doubting!). Looking forward to the next SKW!

73 de Graham G3ZOD FISTS #8385

As ever thanks for your report and efforts Gra...I know you had a busy week with SKW and travelling to Leicester Radio Rally..I'm amazed how you found the time! Thanks for your support.

From Ray. G3ASG

Hello Rob,

Here's my log for the Straight Key Week, 6th to 12th September 2009. I didn't hear any of the Club Stations at all, the whole week! Anyway, very enjoyable!

Ray Fautley, G3ASG, FISTS 2272

Hello Ray. Good to hear from you. You'll have read that I was active during the week with GX0IPX and GX3ZQS....Pity we didn't meet up.

And from Martin. IK2RMZ

Hi Robert, Glad to work the HQ station. 73 Martin.

Hi Martin.

Glad you found time to get on air, and pleased to work you with the HQ Call before you had to go.

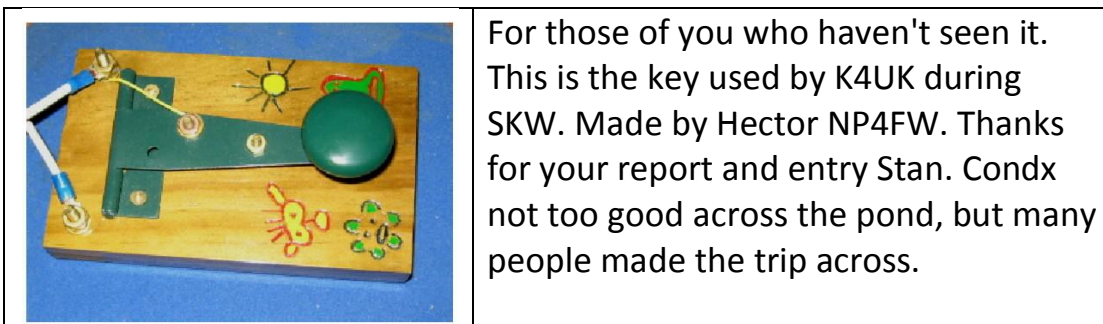
And from Stan. K4UK

Rob:

Attached is my log for the Straight Key Week. Lots of fun as usual. Set my goal to get 200 points and just made it - Hi! Really surprised to have John, VK4TJ answer one of my CQ's on 20 Meters and then he gave me a contact with the "FISTS Down Under Australia" club station - good for 5 points. And I thought T77Z had to be a "Pirate" so I checked QRZ.COM and found him there. Will be sending him a QSL card. Somewhat disappointed to not work more folks in England.

Conditions not too good for DX at the times I was operating. Used that same old home built straight key that Hector, NP4FW put together using a door hinge. Think you may still have a copy of the picture of it that I sent to you. My QSL card will have a picture of the key on it.

73, Stan - K4UK.



And from good friend Peter. G4LHI

Hello Robert, I attach my claim & report for the 2009 SK Week, which I must say, although I did not get as much time as I usually do, I certainly enjoyed the event & very nice to see that so many members came out of the woodwork this time to join in, & do hope that many more of them will submit a claim!! Also nice to see a lot of new members, with nice big membership numbers, which will be good for those chasing the Century & Millionaire Awards hi? Thanks for the GX0IPX QSO mate, nice to hear you on the band, but sorry I missed the GX3ZQS club call you also came up with. I did manage 45 QSO's (compared with 143 last year!) for a total of 92 points, unfortunately no NA stations this year & my only DX, Erkki, OH7QR & Wolf, DJ3KU, many thanks guys, the rest were all UK members plus one non member GW4HDB, Mike in Swansea, who perhaps I may have talked into eventually joining us? I must say a big thank you to all members & non members who I worked & only sorry I could not take a more active part this year, but hope I was able to give a few points away & look forward to a very interesting results sheet this year!! I did start a very interesting Fists Award in January this year, it is only a one off for

2009 & ends in Dec, so if anyone is interested, you will find the info on the US Fists Web page, but not much time now to complete, hi. I was very fortunate to get my few final QSO's during the SK Week & will be sending my claim off to Dennis in the near future. The Award is called "Fists 2009 CW/Phone Award" & you have to have CW QSO's with 100 different Telephone Code Areas, was very interesting & another reason for a good chat on the key trying to explain exactly what you needed hi! That's all for now folks, keep bashing the brass & see you in the next activity event

73/88 de Peter G4LHI # 2219. Jean also wishes me to thank all those that have wished her a speedy recovery. Tnx.

As ever Peter, many thanks for your support and report, glad you managed to get on and give some points away. As ever, and on behalf of all of us within FISTS, our good wishes to Jean.

From Eric, GØOTE

Hello Robert

Enclosed my log of stations worked during SKW 2009. My entry is in no way competitive, I was only there for the fun of working other FISTS members! My congratulations go to the highest scoring member, and a big thank you to all those, who like me, were there just for the fun.

Thanks to you all who run FISTS. And for organising SKW!

All the best, and 73.

Eric. GØOTE FISTS 9850

Hello Eric.

Good to hear from you, and thanks for your kind words.

I think Eric sums up the feeling of SKW when he said he was there for the fun of working members during the activity. I'm so pleased to hear that you've had fun during the week's activity, and hope you'll find time to be involved with the 2010 activities planned.

A mention must go to Earnest, G3ITL, who mailed to say thanks for SKW, it fills a badly needed spot; and went on to tell of his home brew magnetic loop suffering capacitor failure! Commiserations' Earnest, hope you've got it up and running again? I'd look forward to an appraisal of your loop, building techniques etc, an excellent article for a future edition of Keynote!

So, it's results time once again, I'm quite sure that this is the most amount of logs submitted for SKW since I've been looking after the societies activities; I hope the trend continues, it doesn't matter if, as GØOTE points out; you're not competitive, just there to meet other members and enjoy the fun. Send your log in anyway, it shows your support of the event(s) within the society in two ways, both on air and in Keynote or Brasspounder.

CALL	SCORE	KEY USED
G3ZRJ	295	WT8amp 1940
G4NCU	271	ARMY 48 SET
G3ASG	238	?
K4UK	200	home brew
G3LFE	193	?
G3JFS	193	Raymart 1947
G4HXL	192	Hi-Mound
G3XZX/a	180	RAF Type D
G3HAL	109	?
PA3AFF	99	USA J47
G4LHI	92	Petersson
OH7QR	80	Petersson
GØOTE	79	?
MODRK	78	?
IK2RMZ	67	?
ZL2ALJ	62	home brew
GØMRH	61	USA Pattern "X"
G3ZOD	44	?
G3ITL	2	?

(*Denotes award winner)

I was surprised to see just how closely spaced everyone was generally. But congratulations go to Tony. G3ZRJ for getting top spot, closely followed by Mike. G4NCU and Ray. G3ASG in second and third places respectively. Thanks to all who took time to come on air to support the event.

The 2010 activity calendar will be appearing soon online, and in the final Keynote of the year. There are two new events added to the traditional calendar of activities; so hope to be hearing from you next year with your submissions in the events planned. Till next time. Keep well, keep pounding brass. 73. MØBPT