

The International Morse Preservation Society

FISTS CW Club



EYAW (Exchange Your Age Week) results 2009

Well Well, What an amazing reception the new activity for 2009 received from members!

I was so surprised to receive mails from participants before the activity had finished claiming "What a success EYAW had been" And looking at logs received for the event, I could see why these mails were appearing in my inbox! The amount of members who were active during the week was striking! If all the members who were active had sent in an entry! I would have been busy for quite some time! So, where were the logs from all our active members?.....

Send in your entry and a report on what the week's activity meant to you! This is and has been a fun event....And to answer all the requests received from those who did send in an entry....I can confirm and answer your requests that EYAW will remain in the activity calendar for 2010 and beyond.....

Already it has been mentioned that it will be as popular as SKW! Praise indeed! Thank you for your kind words for introducing the activity..And mails received saying "Can't wait for EYAW to come around again next year!"... I look forward to EYAW 2010 being received with even more enthusiasm than 2009, and look forward to receiving more entries....

Before I get onto the comments and reports received...I would like to wish a most cordial welcome to the members who had decided to enter one of our activities for the first time; again, the member numbers I've seen in logs received stretched from early numbers to very new members... I hope you'll find time to enter other activities during 2009.

Another thing that I was looking for was, in the absence of any data, a possible centurion in someone's log! After looking at the logs, and checking, my wish was not to be realised this year.... But we can hope for the next EYAW....

The oldest and youngest members worked during EYAW?....

I can tell you that, at 94 years, fists Member Glenn, W9FFU; was the most senior member worked. (By Roy, G4PRL and Stan, K4UK...congratulations guys) The youngest member, who was very active during the week; was fists member Graham 2EØTEK at 22 years,. The most senior EU member worked was Dawson, G3AHS at 88 years... Congratulations to Glenn, Dawson, and Graham for supporting the event. Who knows, we may get a centurion in a forthcoming EYAW. (Does anyone know of such an amateur still active?)

On to the members reports.

Firstly. Graham 2EØTEK who comments;

Hi Robert

Very good idea, this event was great fun, amazing how many members came out this week; been nice to work some old faces again and even managed to work a club station once. Only wish I had more time or could get home from work slightly earlier hi hi.

73 fer nw. Graham 2E0TEK

Thanks for your kind words Graham...glad you enjoyed the event.

From Stan. K4UK

Rob - MOBPT:

Attached is my log for the Exchange Your Age Week.

Unfortunately I wasn't able to participate much because we had left home on Friday, February 27 and drove to Florida so my wife could attend her High School Class Reunion in Sarasota on Monday, March 2. Then we visited friends in Lake Alfred, FL. My friend Bernie and I played golf on Tuesday and Wednesday. We drove all the way home on Thursday.

Another friend here in Virginia had a tee time on Friday at my Golf Course, so that shot most of Friday. As you can see by my very small log I was only on from 1912 UTC until the end at 2359 UTC on Saturday. But I worked Glenn, W9FFU who at the age of 94 may be the oldest one in the Event. So, I may lay claim to working the oldest ham during the week - Hi! 73, Stan - K4UK

Glad you found time to get on and "Exchange some ages" Indeed you can lay claim (With FISTS EU member G4PRL) to have worked the most senior member of the week!

From Roy. G4PRL

Hello Rob,

Greetings from South Devon.

Well I have just been enjoying the "Age Week" event that you organised, it was great, just about one of the nicest fun ham radio events that I have ever taken part in.

I very much dislike "5-9, 73" contests, but this is the type of thing that ham radio should be about if you really want to enjoy the hobby, so thanks a lot Rob, great work.

I could not dedicate as much time to the event as I would have liked, but as you will see I was able to get a few contacts in most days. I found that the most common age seemed to be 73; however the average age was nearly 71.

I also noticed that nearly all my contacts were with the south of England and hardly anything up north and definitely no GMs at all.

As you will see that apart from one QSO on 20 mtrs all my other QSOs on 80 mtrs were using QRP, I was using my FT817 @ 5 Watts to a W3DZZ antenna, and as you can see all were good solid contacts.

Judging by the on air contacts this has been a very popular event and has generated quite a lot of activity on the FISTS QRG, and so for that reason there are a good number of members keeping their fingers crossed that it will again be part of the calendar for next year?

So well done Rob, and many thanks. Please find my results attached to this e-mail.

73 de Roy, G4PRL, FISTS 8997

Hello Roy. It was a pleasure to open my mailbox and find your entry and report inside.. I've had the pleasure of meeting Roy (As I have many other members) at the Donnington Radio show on two occasions. Where we've enjoyed a lengthy chat....Thanks for your kind words and enthusiasm for the event, and of course, congratulations are in order for working the most senior member during the event, along with K4UK...I hope you'll be joining the event next year...

From Derek. MØDRK

Hi Robert,

I am pleased to send you my log for Fists Exchange Your Age Week. I expect that by now you'll have received many messages to say what great fun it has been. Many fists members were heard that are usually not heard on other Fists activities and that was very nice. You certainly picked a winner with this one Robert. Many thanks to all stations that I worked who gave me points. Good to work Roy in Scarborough again with club points to be earned.

Thank you for a great week, take care, see you again soon. Derek MØDRK

Always a pleasure to hear from you Derek. Again, thanks for your kind words and support, the event was certainly well received by all.

From our friend and one of the "Doyens" of the FISTS activity scene; Peter G4LHI

Hello Robert.

I attach my report & claim for the "Exchange Your Age Week". I must firstly, on behalf of all the participants of this event, congratulate you Robert for introducing it to your 2009 activities calendar & we all hope it will remain a regular event? It certainly was very popular with old & new members, I for one worked three new members (QSL cards via Fists buro in next batch tnx guys) & many older callsigns that I had not heard for years, it was reminiscent of the good old days when members were "number crunching" as dear old Geo called us when we were collecting for our Century & other Awards hi!! Incidentally, I did not hear any Century numbers exchanged, is this a dying art?? I certainly enjoyed the event & it was so nice to hear such a lot of activity from members again, I was sorry when 2359 came on Saturday, but then we did have the "Ladder" on Sunday to enjoy, those of us that were not too worn out from the week's efforts hi! I was lucky to have 138 QSO's and with 268 points for 3's, 2's & 1's total of 268 plus the total ages column of 9071 added to this giving

me a grand total of 9339 points, subject to Roberts scrutiny hi! I think the average age for my log was around 34 years old, but there were a few younger members joining in, so I'm sure their average age could be well above that with them having a ball with us "oldies" hi! I must say very many thanks to all members & of course a few non members, that joined in & made this a wonderful event, was a great pleasure to enjoy the chats, & certainly no rubber stamp type QSO's, just what is needed by our Fists Club activities. That's all for now, see you next time & "Keep Pounding the Brass"

73/88 de Peter G4LHI & Jean

As ever Peter, thank you for your kind words, support, and enthusiasm for the event, and all the other activities in the calendar. As I've commented earlier, the event was well received and will certainly remain in the events calendar for 2010 and beyond.....

From Graham G3ZOD. Who comments;

I wasn't able to spend a lot of time on the air during the week, but it was nice to meet up with some new and old faces. Andy F6CNI deserves a special mention; although a non-member, he was nevertheless being a good sport and giving away points with his very impressive 500 milliwatts!

73 de Graham (Gra) G3ZOD FISTS #8385

Hello Graham.. It's nice to hear that 500 milliwatts was making the trip in these times of low activity. I'd noticed that F6CNI had made his way into other entrants' logs too!

A warm welcome to Daryl GØANV Who comments;

Hi Robert,

Here is my entry for the EYAW activity.

Had great fun. Worked old friends and made some new ones too.

Good all round week.

73 de Daryl. GØANV Fists nr. 2270

Good to have you on board Daryl...Thanks for your kind words.

From Errki OH7QR

Hello Robert,

Please find attached my log. I think that the event was a great success. Most participants were on 80M which is not good band for me. But anyway I got 13 QSOs. There were some who didn't want to give their ages although I gave mine. I am too tactful and didn't ask anybody's age if he didn't give it voluntarily, Hi.

73 Erkki OH7QR

As ever Erkki. Thanks for your support. Glad you managed to meet members on air; I'm surprised that no-one migrated to 20m where they would have found you waiting patiently on 14.058. Glad you enjoyed the event...

From Peter G3JFS

Hello Robert, Welcome Back.

Attached is my log for the Exchange Your Age Activity Week.

After a slow start with only 6 contacts in the first two days I had more time for operating during the rest of the week and finished up with 86 contacts in the log. Although I sent a lot of CQ calls on other bands the only members I worked were on 80 metres where I had 51 contacts with 35 different members. Many of the non-

members worked were QRP stations who, as I have mentioned in previous reports, take advantage of the increase in activity just below their calling channel during our activities.

Many people commented on how much they were enjoying the activity week and I am sure that much of this was due to our own 'FISTS Casual Contesting Style' of operating that encourages 'proper' contacts rather than rubber stamp ones. Many of mine lasted for 10 – 15 minutes with a few up to 30 minutes and this trend was noticed when listening to other stations.

Overall I think the event was a big success and will become a regular fixture on the annual events calendar.

73 Peter, G3JFS Fists 8985

As ever Peter. Thanks for your concise round up of your weeks activity. G4PRL and G4LHI echo your sentiments regarding how far removed we are from the "rubber stamp QSO's" Long may it continue....

From Pol G3HAL (Who as a matter of interest, was, after G3AHS the next most senior FISTS EU member active during the activity at 87 years) who comments....

Robert

Herewith as attachment my log for the Age Week Contest. It was especially interesting because, having no Serial Nos. we had no idea how the others were doing. Hope to take part next year.

Pol Parrott G3HAL 8367

Pleased to hear that you found the activity interesting Pol. Look forward to receiving your log next year.....

And From Mike G4NCU

Hi Robert,

Attached is my log for the first exchange your age week and may I say what a great fun week it was, I do hope this event stays on the annual fists calendar.

It was good to see the event well attended, and once again I met up with old friends and quite a lot of members not worked before, my only regret not being able to get on air every day.

73. Mike G4NCU Fists 6061

A pleasure to hear from you Mike. And pleased you managed to get on for the event. As you'll have seen, your thoughts have been echoed by all who sent in their logs...With the amount of members active during the event, it did make a fun weeks activity...Lets hope that the 2010 EYAW yields even more members on air and perhaps more will send a log in for scrutiny!.....

From John, 2EØJCY.

Hi Robert,

It was a very enjoyable week and I got some much needed cw practice. I met quite a few members for the first time and can't wait for the next one. So hope it becomes an annual event.

Regards

John 2EØJCY 13253

Hello John. A pleasure to receive your first ever entry in one of the society's activities, I hope you'll continue to join in whenever you find time to do so... Glad you enjoyed the event and as you'll have seen in the earlier comments, EYAW will become a regular event in the calendar.

Our final comments come from a member who you may have heard me mention before; Bryan GØGSY. Due to unusual shift patterns at work Bryan will sacrifice sleep to come on and support events during the year.

Robert.

What a wonderful event! Must be the best yet! Never heard so many FISTS on air, and some that haven't been on for a long time! This event is a must for next year! It was great fun, thanks a lot.....

Could only come on during the afternoons due to my work at night. Take care..73. Bryan.

Thanks for your kind words Bryan. Always a pleasure to receive your entry....

All that's left for me to do is publish the results of the first EYAW... I've added in the right hand column, the average age of each member's log.

EYAW	TOTALS	2009
CALL	SCORE	AV. AGE
G4LHI*	9339	65.7
G3JFS*	5505	64.6
G3HAL*	5000	64.7
GØGSY	4567	65.9
G4NCU	3843	70.5
GØANV	3393	70.2
2EØTEK	2625	70.8
MODRK	2162	59.8
G4PRL	1751	70.8
2EØJCY	1600	74.1
G3ZRJ	1101	66.9
G3ZOD	916	68.5
ØH7QR	736	64.9
G8XGQ	494	80.3
K4UK	372	72.6

(* Denotes award winner)

Congratulations to Peter G4LHI for an excellent winning score. Also to G3JFS, and G3HAL so closely spaced in second and third position. A mention must go to GØGSY who managed a very respectable fourth place score in spite of him arranging his sleeping requirements with the event! And the QRP operators who did a fine job!..

Thanks to all of you who came on and supported the event, worthy of a mention is Roy, G4SSH who activated many of his arsenal of call-signs from Scarborough Special Events Group to give away points to members...

To pick up on a few comments raised by participants...Reminiscent of the old days" "Our casual operating style" These are but two of the many thoughts aired by members who have been surprised by the activity.... I think that this is one of the main reasons why so many friendships are made within FISTS.... The ability of us not to take another members number for whatever award we may be collecting for and run! Another being the ability of us to help newcomers to the mode and help nurture their ability through their first steps on

air!.... A hope that the mode will be perpetuated for a long time ahead! I'm sure Geo. would have been pleased and proud to have heard all the activity from members during the EYAW event!

Who'd have thought that, in the second half of 2008 when I sat down to look at something to replace MKW, and came up with EYAW, that it would have been received with such enthusiasm and support from you all.....(What am I going to do for 2010? Hi) I do have an idea....More about that Later.....

73. Keep pounding the brass!

MØBPT