

# *The International Morse Preservation Society.*

FISTS CW Club



## **Straight Key Week 2007 Results.**

Welcome, before I get on with the long awaited results of SKW 2007. I'd like to say a big "THANK YOU" To all who supported the activity. Not only the members who took an active part in the week and sent in an entry, but also to those from the membership who were on air actively supporting the activity! I noticed by the amount of "FISTS Nr xxx" in the logs submitted to me that it certainly was an active SKW. Lots more members on air! Also, it was a real pleasure to see the amount of recently joined members of the society in the logs. This too, of course is reflected in the scores. which are considerably higher than last year. I hope that next year we can improve on the 2007 SKW with even more of the membership blowing the dust off their straight keys and joining in the fun. Making SKW 2008 an exciting prospect to all members of the society. To everyone who did join in, send in your log in 2008! Don't think, "I didn't do well enough" When you see the results published in here a little later, I hope you'll think "I did better than that" Once again. Thanks to all for making SKW 2007 a success. (Even though condx were lousy Hi)

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Lets take a look at band reports and general comments from those who were chasing the numbers during the week. Firstly.  
Peter. G3JFS #8985.

Hi Robert, Attached is my log for the Fists SKW. Conditions were, if anything, worse than last year and although I have a better log this time it is due to more activity by members and having more time to spare for operating. 10 and 15m were completely dead except for 15m on Day 7 after 3B7C started up. Then there was bedlam for a short period before the band faded out. Altogether I had 259 contacts with 46 countries in 6 continents. Best dx on 40m was W. Australia and Indonesia with Guyana, Kuwait, Senegal and Uruguay on 20m. Several Fists members from across the pond were worked on 20/40m but these were difficult contacts because of extremely poor transatlantic propagation. I know I missed a few calls from the US that I could not copy because of high noise and deep, deep qsb. The high level of activity by members was welcomed and I hope this is reflected in the number of logs you get. From a rough count I had 114 Fists contacts with 64 different members. As always 80m was the best band for member contacts but I do wish stations would spread out in busy periods instead of all trying to work on or close to the calling channel when several kHz either side are clear. The relaxed operating style of SKW and similar events does allow lots of interesting contacts to be made and two that I would mention are firstly with Tony, G0PEH #1651 who was running 2 watts from a homemade paraset. The other on Day 7 was with Colin, M3WCK #13231 to give him his very first Fists contact with his new membership number obtained the previous day at the Leicester rally.

73 Peter G3JFS ex GM3JFS, VK6AI, 5Z4PQ and DA1PE.

Thanks Peter for a very interesting account of your weeks activity. Certainly, Tony. GØPEH with his Paraset at two watts worthy of a mention, and what a pleasure to hear that Colin. M3WCK was airing his Membership number just 24 hours or less after receiving it from the Leicester Rally, and you being his first FISTS Contact. I will add that Peter does make a very valid point about congestion around the recommended frequencies. I tend to move down a little and give out general "CQ's" And hope other members do the same.

(As a matter of interest Peter, Were you you using your 1947 vintage Raymart Key this year?)

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From "Jakey" G3JKY #6462.

"Sorry I couldn't spend more time on air. On the 1st I was recovering from SSB FD. And on the 6th I was in the RAFARS Contest! And on the evening of the 7th I was playing trombone in a jazz band at Crowborough! 73. "Jakey"

Good to hear from you Jakey. You had a busy week! thanks for finding time to get on air!

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From Len. G3LHS #13214.

Hello Robert. I started late due to lack of time but it was a chance to meet members, G4LHI, G3HAL, G3VRU and G3JFS after I'd "Blown the dust off the straight keys" A WT8 Amp with G4LHI & G3HAL. And a GPO 2101 with G3VRU & G3JFS. All contacts were made with 5W from my Alinco DX70.

Good to hear from you Len. And nice to hear that you've blown the dust off the straight keys! It's always nice to hear that members fetch their keys out of retirement for the event.

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From Mike. G4NCU #6061.

Herewith my log for the skw, unfortunately I could not make the last day, but had great fun meeting old friends and some new. It was good to use my old TS520 with an old army key for the 48 set. 73 Mike G4NCU.

Always a pleasure to hear from you Mike. There's something both yourself and Peter G3JFS (And others) have commented on which I'll pick up on later.

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## From Tony. G3ZRJ #7727.

Hi Rob,

Please accept my log for SKW 2007, this is my first "go" at an entry for SKW, I have tried to ensure all info is as you requested in Brasspounder.

My station during SKW was Kenwood TS-850 set to 80W except if operating in/near QRP freqs when I went to between 5 and 10 Watts, antenna is a half-wave on 80M with about 45 feet of 600 ohm open wire feeder via coax choke into coax, the internal ATU tunes this on all 9 HF bands.

I used my copy of a GPO coast station key for all QSO's in SKW, it was good to shake off some of the rust off my hand keying fist.

I very much enjoyed SKW, I had some great chats with some terrific ops, thanks very much for a very enjoyable week. I did the AGCW Straight Key Party on 1st Sept so I was pounding brass for 8 days in all. Thanks again for organising SKW it really was fun,

73 Tony G3ZRJ FISTS 7727 FOC 1774 RNARS 889.

Welcome Tony. I'm very pleased you've enjoyed your 1st SKW. Lets hope we'll see you in 2008. Tony kindly sent in some images of his keys and an image of himself at the operating position at G3ZRJ.



Hi Robert, as promised, a photo of me with the station used in SKW, the key is a copy of the GPO coast station keys. The other keys in use are a rather battered J36 bug and a twin paddle made by David VK3DBD/G3SC D which I use via a Logikey K-1.

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**From Peter. G4LHI #2219.**

Hello Robert, I attach my claim for the SK Week. Really enjoyed this year, seemed a lot more activity than last year & I even managed to find Stan, K4UK, on 7 MHz just before closing time after a few failed calls during the week, many thanks Stan. Many thanks also to Roy with a few of his Scarborough Club Call signs & 3 pointers. Thanks also to all members that joined in the fun of the week & some that we worked on each day of the week. 73, Peter. G4LHI.

Again. Always a pleasure to hear from you Peter. Glad to hear that you've enjoyed SKW this year.

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**From Derek. MØDRK #8344**

Hi Robert, Please find attached my log for SKW 2007. Though I only popped up now and again, it was a most enjoyable week. None of qsos' were "Rubber stamp variety" Eric, G3VRU was always ready for a nice chat. On both QSO's we had, one was 48 min's long and the other 44 min's. I did meet a couple of new (to me) members as well. Many thanks to all who gave me points. Sorry we missed you all at Donnington. 73 for now, Derek MØDRK

**Good to hear from you also Derek. Pleasing to hear that people still have time to have a good chat.**

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**From Stan. K4UK #2934.**

Rob - M0BPT:

Enclosed my log for the SKW. Also the picture of the NP4FW straight key. As you can see he used a hinge and mounted it on a very nice piece of wood and painted on some Indian symbols. I even used the straight key for a few contacts on the 30 Meters during the week. Was pleased to work Alf, G3UAA - Peter, G3JFS - Tony, G3ZRJ - Peter, G4LHI during the SKW. Even worked Tony on two bands. I had to call it quits after my QSO with G4LHI. I ended up with a total of 66 QSO's and 126 points during the SKW. It was fun and I did have some quite surprising QSO's including one with Alan VK6BN in Perth on 7.028 MHz on the 5th.

Breakdown by bands: 11 on 80 Meters, 38 on 40 Meters and 17 on 20 Meters. I ran the K2 at 15 Watts for all contacts except the last four when I fired up my Ten-Tec OMNI 6 at 90 Watts to see if I could put a stronger signal over the big pond. Was a lot of fun using that home-built straight key. I'm making QSL cards with a picture of that key on them for all contacts I had. Got an Email from Tony, G3ZRJ and he really enjoyed the event. Really surprising to find so many FISTS members on 80 and 40 Meters. I've been spending most of my time on the WARC bands over the past couple of years that I didn't know of the activity on the other bands. - Hi! Also quite a few members of SKCC (Straight Key Century Club) are on the air. I'm member # 1941.

Thanks for all you do promoting FISTS and amateur radio.

73, Stan - K4UK



Here's an image of the NP4FW homebrew Straight Key used by K4UK during SKW. I'm going to suggest that this was possibly the only Homebrew key in use this year. (Unless of course, you know differently?) The second image is of K4UK at his operating position which comes from a library picture that I have.

Thanks for your kind words (It's a team effort) Report and information Stan. As ever, a pleasure to have you on board for the 1st time in our SKW. I hope you'll make it a regular entry. It was nice to hear, considering the band condx, that all but four QSO's were achieved at 15w.

(As a matter of interest, lets find out what the most unusual thing that YOU have used as a Key. Can be past or present. Share your story with us, if you've got an image, even better! I

know we have ex military, merchant marine, and coastguard op's etc. amongst us. So lets hope someone will have a story to share! I can be reached via the usual channels. Hope to hear from you!)

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Just one more thing to do. That's publish the 2007 SKW results..... But before I do, I want to pick up on comments made by G3JFS and G4NCU (And others) in their reports on SKW. G3JFS commented on the "Relaxed operating style of SKW" G4NCU remarked "Great fun meeting old friends and new" G3ZRJ and K4UK remarked "Very enjoyable week" and "It was fun" MØDRK commented that it was a "Most enjoyable week" These comments tell me that SKW 2007 has been a success. With more members of the society active during the week than there has been for some time. Hope you'll all put the 2008 dates in your diaries, and of course, blow the dust of the pump keys that you all have hiding away in the darkest corners of your shacks! OK. Here's the results at long last.

Straight	Key	Week	2007
1*	G3JFS	377	
2*	G4LHI	290	
3*	G3ZRJ	192	
4	K4UK	126	
5	G4NCU	114	
6	GØMRH	63	
7	G3HAL	61	
8	MØDRK	60	
9	G3HEL	46	
10	G3JKY	44	
11	OH7QR	41	
12	G8XGQ	26	
13	G3LHS	8	
*	DENOTES	AWARD	RECIPIENT

Congratulations go to Peter G3JFS for winning the 2007 SKW. Putting Peter G4LHI into second place. 2006 SKW saw G4LHI in first place and G3JFS in second place, so this year shows a change of place for the two. Congratulations go to Peter G4LHI also for his fine second place score. And a special "Well Done" Must go to Tony G3ZRJ for getting on the winners podium with his first attempt and his excellent third place score. Certificates to the top three. That's about it for SKW 2007. Again, many thanks to all who supported the activity. Till the next time, keep well, keep bashing the brass!

A Mention and thanks must go to Pol, G3HAL #8367 who supplied a check log for me for the whole weeks activity and entered a log for five days of the activity.

73, Robert MØBPT #5576

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