

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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

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OFFICES

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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@attbi.com>
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>

M0AYI Glenn@m0ayi.freeseve.co.uk

M5AGL bobm5agl@btopenworld.com

M0ZAK jim.steel@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 postage unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

Old Sol has clearly been suffering some sort of gastric problem for the last few months and whilst we can expect the atrocious band conditions to persist for a while yet, there is optimism abroad and indeed, some unexpected openings have been evident on 30m, 15m and 17m whilst 40m continues to throw up its share of DX though sadly at a time when most of us are between sheet.

The hot conditions caused me to give up any idea of gaining anything like a decent period of sleep on a few occasions last month so, bog-eyed and perhaps a little grumpy, I found myself sitting at the rig at such impossible hours as 0400 where I confess I spent more time listening to some squeaky DX than actually operating. They were however eye-opener times. The number of transatlantic signals heard on 40m in QSO with both North American and EU locations made a delightful and encouraging

change to the frying bacon and other unwelcome sounds found during more civilized hours. Could even change habits and join the early to bed, early to rise brigade. Hi. When working, I usually arrived home between 0430 and 0530 and at that hour especially during the time of the year when dawn occurred, I would frequently find myself on the business end of a traffic queue from JA, ZL, VK and other tasty stuff. Ah well. The penalties of being a professional layabout are now being paid.

THOSE UPSIDE DOWN FOLKS

Gudday all,

We now have a FISTS Club national station in Australia thanks to the efforts of Chris VK2MQX who is the trustee and QSL manager.

Please record our two stations as:

ZL6FF-FISTS Down Under New Zealand-#09600 (Note name change for standardisation)

VK2FDU-FISTS Down Under Australia-#09610
73 de ZL2AOH.

Well, that was an unexpected result considering it was only last month I was reporting on the seeming reluctance of the Australian authorities and even more of a surprise that they were kind enough to allocate appropriately to 'FISTS DOWN UNDER'. Before you all start asking, yes! VK2FDU like ZL6FF, KN0WCW and GX0IPX/MX5IPX are regarded as 'national' club stations and as such are valued at 5 points as opposed to the 3 points for other club stations. Dennis, our awards manager is gonna be even busier soon.

THE LOGO

Early during our foundation, G4XVF, Tony (now GM4XVF since he has taken to watching seals and long horned cattle on some obscure Scottish island) bent a few arms at his works location and a very handsome logo was forthcoming from a professional designer.

Some of our earlier members found this logo on their membership certificates at quite a price since at that time I had no facilities for colour printing on the hoof as it were and the resultant stock was more than a tad expensive. I spent quite a few hours re-touching it and making a few changes. As a consequence, the



logo itself remained forgotten until Tony himself asked if I could dig it up. This I did and not only has it been applied to the new Ladder certificates etc., but the general club callsign as opposed to those which I keep separate for FISTS QSOs. Orders for QSLs may incorporate this logo instead of the normal one if desired - there is no additional charge.

For the snail mail recipients, I am sorry about the greyscale image but I am at the mercy of the publisher package which is used for Keynote for colour to greyscale conversion but I can assure you that it is **very** colourful. The stylised lightning bolts are red whilst the remainder comprises blue, yellow green and black. Who's a clever boy then?

MX5IPX

The callsign is still active and for those who would like to run a period pse LMK. It is in use rarely these days and considering that it attracts 5 century points, this is something of a shame. I have been urged by many members to activate the national club call for the ladder but on the few occasions that I have actually had time to get on air, the bands have been NBG to say the least. What is needed here is someone who is prepared to forego an interest in the ladder to air GX0IPX/P on Sundays to reduce the incidence of self inflicted hair loss. It goes without saying that since the flag is being flown, a reasonable standard of sending would be expected but apart from this, no problems.

Sunday I regret is usually an extremely busy day for me - processing of new members, pages of deferred emails to answer etc., take up a great deal of my time so I must ask you to take this into consideration when the ladder is at the forefront of your mind.

MYSTERY SOLVED

The query by E15EM last month was rapidly answered by a number of members amongst whom was G3TUX, the guy he bought the key from originally. It is a RAF type 'D' key and amongst others, 9V1VV chipped in adding a structural description and pointing out that he replaced the original tapered bush bearings with sealed roller bearing units. Great idea but if you plan to donate it to your grandkids with a view to augmenting their retirement funds when the time comes, not to be recommended.

Chris, G3TUX says that he was sure he had told Tony at the time of purchase that it was the standard RAF ground station key adding that none of 'em ever had a serial number inscribed in the space so thoughtfully provided by the manufacturers I am now somewhat embarrassed myself since I had one of these in my hands for quite some time before 'loaning' it to a ham in Blackburn - it has never been returned. Hi.

Talking of which, Chris answers a query by G3XVF saying that DJ2BW still makes the ETM9C0G-X3 (the version sans paddles) but he no longer stocks this item having thrown in his lot 100% behind Logikey products. Both Samson and Logikey use the Superkeyer v3 chip.

LOOP THE LOOP

*Thanks for the pic of me in Keynote with the magloop! You were correct it was in its early stages of development. That capacitor has since been replaced with a 1500pf one and although it is a transmitting variable the spacing is still a little close for a magnetic loop ant. However it now covers 160-80-40 mtrs and with an output of 60 watts. Recent QSOs on 160 cw have included CT1ILT, OZ1BXN, LA5HE and some G stations so I am very pleased with the results. The article I wrote for the RSARS is now available on my website and has been updated, it is in PDF format and can be downloaded from:
<http://homepage.nlworld.com/g4kki.bill/LOOP.pdf> for part one
<http://homepage.nlworld.com/g4kki.bill/magloop.pdf> for part two.
Ok cheers for now Geo, 73 deBill G4KKI FISTS 7709*

YOUTHFUL WRINKLIES

Ralph, ZL2AOH, heard VK3BW in QSO stating that his age was 93 which set him wondering.... does he have any members senior to him in terms of age?

Well, G8NT may be a close runner. Born 1910 he is the only representative of that year within the database though some of 'em skip the question 'Age' on the app form.

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

Incidentally, I enter the given age and the dBase programme converts this into a year format for me. How lazy can you get?

IT'S GOTTA BE A SCAM!

I hasten to point out that unless specifically requested, I do not publish phone numbers or email addresses. Be that as it may, The address he used: fists@m0ecs.waitrose.com has only ever appeared in Keynote following his request for information on accented characters. This address was never used for sending email and M0ECS generated the address which was indeed published in Keynote specifically for response to his question. There are some pretty sharp operators on the internet and one of 'em accessed this address with a marvellous offer.

Describing himself as the first son of the late Josep (Desire) Mobutu the former President of Zaire, he confided that he had secretly shipped out some \$37m in banknotes and needed to launder them so that he could gain access to his rightful assets. Steve was offered a tempting percentage on completion of the deal of course.

I seem to remember that this caper (or at least one identical to it) was featured on a TV documentary not too long back and needless to say involved the depositing of a significant sum in an account to which the fraudster would have access. I will not insult your intelligence by suggesting what happens after that but the moral here is that if you are going to invite response via the internet from **any** source, then take precautions. Do as Steve did and generate a one-time-only address and after a reasonable time, destroy it.

It is extremely unlikely that anyone deliberately circulated this address but because Keynote is freely available on our web-site as are countless other similar publications on any number of sites, then without imposing access rights (neither necessary or desirable) it is advisable to take sensible precautions.

A considerable volume of spam finds its way into my in-box with content varying from commercial hype through gambling and girlie pics to organ enlargement but these days, a neat little freebie programme pre-scans my mailbox permitting me to delete or bounce the junk. It is highly likely that my address is copied from the E-Keynote.

A timely reminder perhaps from Steve - **never** reply to these messages and, if there is an option to 'unsubscribe' **never ever** use it. You are only telling the perpetrator that your address is active which is just what he wants to know!

Talking of intrusion, for over a week now, the telephone rings between 1600 and 1800 - right in the middle my after dinner zizz. When answered, there is no response and the line is disconnected. I think it could be logically generated. BT's 1471 reports "caller withheld their number". Anybody got any ideas about this?

G3TUX

The QRP Component Company For Kits, Keys and QRP

Stockists of Keys (Bencher, DK1WE, Jones, Kent Schurr and the Swedish pump) also agent for the Samson series of electronic keyers.

Used keys of all types bought and sold. SAE or IRC for current list of stock or email <sales@g3tux.co.uk>

PO Box 88, HASLEMERE, GU27 2RF
Phone 01428-661501 FAX 07974 214320

HELP

Jim, GM0NTR, is short of a knob for the WT8AMP key. Could be he lost the original in a pot of paint since he has been QRL applying his artistic talents to the shack/bedroom. Address is 17b High St., OBAN, PA34 4BG

Z-MATCH AND BALANCED FEEDERS.

Our Jimmy, G3HBN, may well have been busy re-inventing the wheel since I am sure I have seen the layout overleaf described in a publication somewhere.

However, it all starts with the problem of an unequal current in

the legs of the feeder.

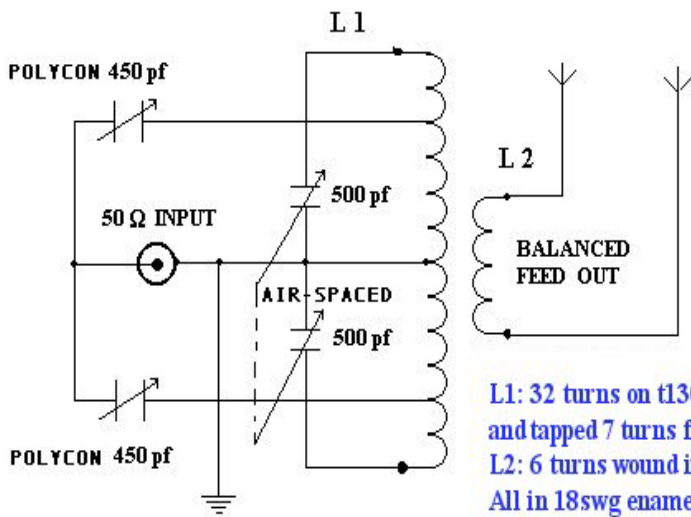
The normal Z-Match has a link winding at the earthy end of the coil meaning that on leg of the feeder is nearer ground than the t'other which causes the difference in distribution.

He is feeding an inverted "V", apex about 40' agl and employing some 40' of open wire feeder.

With the arrangement shown, he gets a bit more antenna current for a start off but, more importantly, has noticed that on 15m the noise level is much lower than the conventional Z-Match.

Its loads of fun to tune and somewhat more time consuming, but once tuned, note the knob settings because there are three of 'em.

THE BALANCED G3HBN Z-MATCH 3.5 TO 30 MHZ



L1: 32 turns on t130_6 centre tapped and tapped 7 turns from each end.
 L2: 6 turns wound in with L1
 All in 18swg enamelled

ORNAMENT OR WHAT?

My apologies for the quality of the image which came to me from GTUX at 72dpi. It is a copy of the Vail key being produced by Kent though on Chris' own admission, you need to have undertaken a serious Charles Atlas course to use it because there's no tension adjustment and judging by that spring, the original must have been developed for lumberjacks cum telegraphists.

Note the knob - or rather the absence of one - and if this brute was ever used for cathode keying there must have been a queue at the first aid post for burned fingers. Hi. Make an unusual paper-weight though and if you would like one, get in touch with Chris.



ALTERNATIVE TAG STRIPS

Remember those old tag strips - wouldn't dream of using 'em these days even if I had some in the junk box. Long long ago when I was broadcasting slow morse on 2m I needed to construct a fairly complex switch box incorporating amplifier, numerous switches, antenna relays and other items. In those days, I did have tag strips but a better alternative turned out to be an ancient octal valve base glued to the board. Worked a treat! Also, to save etching a board, a friend used to glue ICs feet up on a piece of copper surfaced board so he could solder connections directly. The board acted as a pretty good heat-sink too. Not an original idea but certainly worth remembering. The same guy used this technique for transistors, capacitors, resistors and what have you because he had a hot glue gun to hand and couldn't think of any other use for it. His boards looked a mess but everything he built worked every time.

G4ZPY

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e-mail: g4zpy@lineone.net

http://website.lineone.net/~g4zpy/index.htm

ANNUAL LADDER RETURNS JUN/2003

CALL	POINTS
G4LHI	309
G4AQZ	214
M5ABN	181
G3VQO	179
M0AYI	152
G0MRH	151
M5AGL	110
HB9CHE	91
M0RHB	86
OH7QR	84
M0DRK	81
M0CMQ	61
0BRY	24
G0SOP	24
GW0SGG	17
M3XGQ	16
G0XAH	10
M3GBT	7

When will these conditions improve? Soon we hope, still the hot weather seems to last.

Well done to Glenn M0AYI for topping the June returns.

I have received several inquiries from new members who are not sure about our Ladder and the other contests. I will be pleased to supply full details of all the ladder rules and contest info to any member. Just because the ladder is half way through it doesn't mean a log can not be submitted from a new/any member, Please do join in, you will find all those taking part will be only to happy to help, the Ladder is meant to be fun as well as competitive.

The contests details are also to be found under our web page - www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/ STRAIGHT KEY WEEK. No2. From 0001UTC on 7th September to 2359UTC on 13th September 2003.

All licensed frequencies except the WARC bands. Scoring 3 point for a club station, 2 points for a club member and 1 point for a non member worked. Exchanges; RST/NAME/QTH/FIST No or Non Mem/DAY No. NOTE Sunday is day 1, Monday is day 2 and so on to Saturday as day 7. This allows duplication of working the same station once on different days. All entrants must have used a straight key for all QSO's, the worked station does not have to have used a straight key. LOGS to include DATE/CALL/NAME/QTH/QRG/RST/TIME/FIST No or NM/DAY/POINTS. ALL entries to be received by 27th SEPTEMBER 2003.

I hope to be out and about mobile during this week and will be pleased to give points to all stations taking part, PLEASE do try and support this event .

73 fer now and good hunting de Bob M5AGL.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

Not too much paper again this month but I can make a start with **M0VAL** who is having problems with VDU induced migraine attacks so it is back to the old snail mail. A boquet for **G4KKI** who has been most helpful in providing details on his HF mag loop which Bryan has already partially built and is now at the tricky stage of motor v capacitor installation. Flexible couplings come into play here and the design is simple but the devil, like so many projects, is in actually getting down do doing it. **G4SSH**.

I got a super card from the GX0000 activity group and a note showing that over the 16/17 August, they will again be ensconced in the lamp-room of the Scarborough lighthouse with the call GB2SCA for the ILH weekend. A list of likely lighthouse activity (some 400) is available from www.lighthouses.net.au/illw/2003.htm. The Scarborough Activity Group is involved in so many self generated events that it is not easy to keep tabs on them. **G3KUL**. Doug recently enjoyed sharing his 80th birthday cake. Took a chance on an 'illegal' indoor antenna for QRP but with little success so he is back to monitoring with the occasional period of activity from the club station. Would the council really have withdrawn breathing privileges if that attic-bound lw were discovered? **M0ANL**. Another contributor to the RAF type 'D' key info pointing out that the A(crown)M was Air Ministry. Compton Basset had a class room and benches with rows and rows of 'em. We may not know where they all went to but at least we know were many of 'em came from. Hi.

SILENT KEY

On 16 July with cancer, Fred, G0CEK.
Notification from Glen, M0AYI but no other specific info

Also

G4OOS FISTS 00812 - a lapsed member but a 100% cw man - on Saturday 28 June. I am grateful to Chris, G0OWC for this info.

MORSUM MAGNIFICAT



Samuel F.B. Morse
1791-1872

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NEW MEMBERS

09836 JL3SZK Yoshi 09837 M0PVP Brian
09838 M0ERG CLUB 09839 OK1MVD Jan

That's a short list this month people. 09838 is the Eagle Radio Club and caretaker is G3MNS.

G5BM AND 5 MHZ

I had a good illustration of the superiority of Morse over SSB on 5 MHz which may be of interest to members.

Morning of 5 July though would see if I could work one of the US hams using 5 spot freqs authorised to Gen and higher class from 3 July. Max is 50W ERP and usb telephony only.

At 0510 heard few very weak E. Coast stations none of which were calling CQ.

I tried 3 CQs on SSB using the only freq which is common to both (5403.5 KHz) but no replies. I then tried CW and was immediately called by W4AUV who reported 559. There followed a 100% solid ten minute QSO using cross-mode with his 50W and centre fed dipole up at 21m.

Immediately we finished, I was called by NP4A/M (Puerto Rico) who asked me to revert to USB and reported 59 (generous 'S' meter). Again a nice solid QSO from a caravan using what he called a screwdriver antenna (whip).

Can't be bad and Frank has also been active on 17/15m with QSOs from 9K2HS, A45XR and 53RK.

Yes tnks Frank. Ivy back in shoes for short periods now.

ODDS 'N ENDS

GOHGA Angie, emailed to say despite problems at home and caring for John she managed to complete her networking course and scanned a copy of the certificate for me. Most impressive. Looking forward to the possibilities of starting on a programming course also. Starts with Vis Basic but may also be able to tackle 3COM or CISCO depending on whether college gets funding to offer concessions.

High state of security in March for the Queens' opening of the new college with Stevenage crawling with Police and Palace security people but Angie managed some nice photographs of HMQ and Prince Philip.

Bit frustrated at QSL.NET flopping so she moved her website to <http://www.morselady.topcities.com/>. Although she is allocated 150M of webspace, there is a limit of 900K per file and 20mb bandwidth per week.

Subscribers to the VHF reflector now stands at 80 with a recent influx of US and French members. Asks me to remind you URL for reflector is <http://groups.yahoo.cm/group/VHF-CW> and her homepage is <http://www.morselady.topcities.com/vhfcwpage.htm>.

Currency questions.

No names not pack drill but I am still having problems with DX members who fail to appreciate that there is a significant difference between British Pounds Sterling and US Dollars.

PA5BM Concerned about sending subs in Euro/US\$ approached the bank and learned that he could transfer funds directly to the FISTS account. I chased this up at my local branch and they tell me there is a charge of about £8.00 BEFORE transfer so the initial £4.00 for email will end up costing £12.00. Not a good thing mate. Mail here seldom goes astray and in any case, the cost of registration must be considerably less than that. Hi.

THE DX STUFF

Aug 4/13, Faroe Islands, OY, QSL DK4ARL
Aug 4/14, Western Samoa, 5W, QSL N1SLNB
Aug 4/18, Cambodia, XU, QSL G3SWH
Aug 5/9, Solomon Islnds, H44V
Aug 10/19 Turks & Caicos, VP5
Aug 11/16,, Temotu, H40V
Aug 12/23, Netherlands Antilles, PJ6
Aug 14/21, Iceland, TF
Aug 16/23, Turks & Caicos, VP5
Aug 17/20, Papua New Guinea, P29SI
Aug 20/Sept 03, Dodecanese, SV5

Hope the bands improve for these though with my luck they will remain the same. Still, for all you DX hounds out there, it's worth having a shufti.

Speaking for myself, I'll work 'em if they are there but am a little too long in the tooth to be over impressed by rarity. Given a choice between DX and a decent rag-chew it's gotta be the latter. Hi.

FINALE

Look out for **W1AW**. Not too conspicuous on this side of the puddle but if you do happen upon the ARRL HQ station make a point of asking because it now carries a FISTS number. Think Nancy probably had a finger in this particular pie!

Home brew is best! Well this the conclusion I came to recently when, on the usual shopping trip for eatables, I thought to save myself a chore and got a pre-prepared Biriani. Someone had obviously slipped up and I felt the meal removed some 10 microns of material from the roof of the mouth and ventilated the upper digestive tract. Grabbed a glass of water and swear there was a distinct hiss and a puff of steam on contact. Should have whipped it back to the vendor (a big name supermarket chain in Blackburn) but it would have cost half its value in bus fare and at least an hour in time. On the next trip, I spoke to a girl at the checkout and it seems a few meals that day were returned as overspiced. Grrrrr! My luck. Like to adjust the W3DZZ since it is distinctly floppy in this hot wx but I know that if I do so, it will probably part under the strain when temperatures return to normal. Meanwhile it must be many inches overlength. 73/88 people. Have fun and cul de Geo