



KEYNOTE



OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW
32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park.
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CONTEST MANAGER: M0BPT
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Contacts

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Recommended calling QRGs:
3.558, 7028, 10.118 or 10.128,
14.058, 21.058,28.058

AWARDS

E-mail apps/logs to Rob M0BPT
<m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk>
Written logs to HQ. No charges and no
return envelope required.

SUBS: Email Keynote £5.00. UK mail £6.00, EEC mail £8.00 others £11.00. Your renewal date (see enclosed letter) and your anticipation would be much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to just FISTS and sent to M0CDL (address on banner)

Please include your **CALLSIGN, name, FISTS No** on all correspondence and on the back of any cheques .

Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <m0avw1@ntlworld.com>

M0AYI <glenn@m0ayi.freemove.co.uk>

M0ZAK <jim.stel@ntlworld.com>

M0BMN 01902-338973 <paul@m0bmn.co.uk >

I will be glad to get that finished now though. Time to start thinking about what rallies to attend next year now and what we can do to attract more members. One thing we will have to do is to get a banner made up. We noticed at the Donnington rally how every club table had a couple of poles up with their club logo on display, all we have is a couple of laminated club logos on the edge of our table. Many members told us that they had walked around a few times before they found us. Anyway on with the rest of the newsletter.

100th Anniversary of SOS

I'm sure many of you are aware that on the 3rd of November it was the 100th anniversary of the international distress signal SOS. Many regional and national radio stations carried news stories about this. Interesting fact that I must admit to not knowing was that SOS did not stand for Save our Souls or as some think Save our Ship but in fact had no specific meaning at all, the letters SOS were chosen so the signal would not be misunderstood ...—... , in fact before the use of this internationally agreed distress signal the most commonly used signal was CQD , CQ being used meaning the same as CQ now days i.e. a general call , and the D was added to mean Urgent.. Wonder if we have any members that have had to send SOS for real? If so we would love to hear from you and the story behind your use of it.

Are you properly dressed (well addressed)

Here at the FISTS Head quarters amongst the many corridors connecting the different departments like membership, QSL burro, Editors office, Contest department , Treasury department etc it easy for a letter or email to go astray, (well maybe not such a large place really ,just a couple of spare feet in the corner of the shack if I can keep the cat out) no really we get loads of messages sent to the wrong person, so please have a think who would be best to deal with any problem you may have before sending them all to me, if I get a letter about membership for example I have to re-post it to John, if its about a QSL problem then I need to send it to Chuck etc etc, save us all a bit of work and get a faster response by sending you questions to the right person, the new Keynote will have a full list of who does what to help but for now try and use the info on the banner to help you decide who to blame Hi.

QSL BUREAU

All outgoing QLSs 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 for GW0), **G3JRY**, 3 Rochford Crescent BOSTON, PE21 9AE.

G3. GM3 etc (Except for GW3) **G0UQF**, 2 East St. Dartfield, BARNSELY, S73 9AE

G4. GM4 etc. (Except for GW4) **M0ZAK**, 6 Central Ave, SHEPSHEDPSHED. LE12 9HP.

G1,G2,G5,G6,G7,G8 (Except for Wales) and ALL Special (GB etc) calls to **M0BPT**, 125 Devereux Rd. WEST BROMWICH, B70 6RQ

All members in Wales to M0AVW (address on banner)

EU/DX Members: IRCs' UK Banknotes, US Dollars or Euros to M0AVW. The club will provide envelopes. Also, any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL postage unless otherwise advised



Hello And Merry Christmas !

Well it the season to be merry !

So let me and all the organisers working for FISTS wish you all a great holiday and a prosperous new year for 2007,



Its going to be a busy year for FISTS but more on that in the next edition of keynotes which will be in Feb and be the first of the A5 Booklet versions.

Have you noticed how things seem to happen in threes ? We have just had the Central heating boiler give up and need replacing, the exhaust pipe fall off my car! And one of the fancy stained glass double glazing windows crack from one side of the frame to the other. It's a good job I got a early Christmas present from the XYL or Santa would not be visiting me this year!

Work seems busy at this time and im glad to say that my University project is coming along nicely now,

Since the club was not very active for a while we did not really understand the implications of certain laws and how they would effect us. The main one we are talking about here is the Data Protection Act, at first I did not think it would really be a problem, after all we are just a bunch of friends with a common hobby, boy was I wrong! We have received a couple of complaints about the details we give out via the membership list on the club web site and soon being made available via post once a year (again more on that in the new format newsletter next Feb). After taking legal advice we need to make a formal application for the club to be registered to hold this data in the first place and put into place a procedure for protecting the data, I have now made such a application on behalf of the club and now am waiting for the paperwork to be completed.

When this part is all in order we can make available a new membership list. It will contain the following data on members:

Fist Name, Call sign, Membership No., and Town. It will NOT give house numbers or street names or postcodes. The next line is very important , please read it carefully IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR DETAILS LISTED ABOVE ON THE MEMBERSHIP LIST YOU MUST NOTIFY THE MEMBERSHIP MANAGER IN WRITING. You can do this at any time and you will be removed on the next publication date of the paper copies and within one week from the web site list.

Till we get approval for the club to hold such data we can not make the list available to members. I hope that by the next edition we can report that its all sorted and the online look up features can be restored.

Club Sales Officer

Good news for those that want club badges , QSL cards and more. In the past we have been able to supply club QSL cards, and metal enamelled badges. Well they are back, I have now twisted the arm of my chief envelope stuffer (The XYL) see picture below, to act as Sales Officer for us, she as now got a supplier for the nice club metal badges that we had made before, we have ordered 300 to start with so we will see how they go, I have a prototype one here with me now and I must admit they are super quality and will be a quick seller for sure. The QSL cards are pre-printed on the back with the same basic details that they have had for many years but the big difference is the front, we will be able to offer some standard designs that can be ordered with the members details printed in standard places, or if your feeling creative we will be able to take your art work (FULL COLOUR!) and have that put on your cards, cards will be sold in batches of 100. We will also soon have Morse training audio CD's , Car stickers and who know what. Prices and full details will be in the next edition too.



The XYL (Anne) Stuffing Keynotes before she starts on the labels and stamps, If you have any problems with the address labels she's to blame !

I'm sure you must have noticed how often the CW sub bands are full of SSB, most weekends there is some contest or another on and it can be very difficult for the CW operator to make any contacts when faced with a 9+40db over processed voice signals eating up the sub bands. I must admit myself to just giving up and turning the radio off. Many contesters will say that they are only on at the weekend and the rest of the week the sub bands are free, on a whole this may be true, but myself like many other operators only get chance to get on air on the weekend so that's very little comfort anyway. Maybe we all need to decide on a time when the next contest is running and all run full power calling each other to get the point across , I know the sub bands are only a gentleman's agreement but what's happened to the gentlemen!, if you have any views then write or email me and ill put them in the readers letters section in the new format keynote's.

An email from David G3KMG Fists 124

Missed: A Golden Opportunity?

"I wonder if those Fists who heard the Morse item on BBC Radio 4 Today programme on 3rd November share my sentiments that it was a golden opportunity thrown away? It was apparently given by an RSGB representative and ended with an example of Morse code by sending a message. This went on for an embarrassingly long time, so much so the presenters tried to curtail it, but to no avail! Apart from that, the opportunity was missed to explain the continued value of the use of Morse. He could have mentioned the pleasure amateurs get in exercising an acquired skill, its use in getting through on simple equipment in poor conditions together with its value in overcoming language difficulties.

To say Morse was commercially dead was something of an overstatement with one listener reminding the presenter about aircraft beacons.

If only a Fists member had been approached.... and dare I say 'let down by the RSGB'?"

What do you think? Let me know ed.

A Letter From Fred G 3 V V P

Hi Paul

If you have some space in the next Keynote would you be kind enough to inform the readers (that have a PC on the internet) about the QSO format text files which are available. They run in "justlearnmorsecode" or G4FON's Koch trainer and can be obtained by just dropping me an E-mail. I am QTHR on QRZ.com for the address.

Fred's QSO text files are great if your practicing your Morse and have a program such as G4FON's trainer, contact Fred and he will send you a pile of ready made file to use. I would personally like to thank Fred as his files saved me a lot of typing when I mad up the audio CD and MP3 files that will be available soon. If you do not have the software to use with these files I will be putting a page on web site called software, go there and check, you can down load a copy , they are a great way of getting your speed up. ed

Was it you??

One member from Scotland rang me last month about practise tapes, if it was you sorry I lost your details, please ring me again! I will be able to supply a Audio CD with what you want on it. Ed.

News On Geo's Callsign

We have been contacted by Paul, the son of Geo and told that Paul would not like his fathers call to die with him and would be happy for the call to be past on to the club for special events or contests. To this end our Contest manager Rob M0BPT, as now become the custodian of the call and is making plans for it to be given a good airing in the new year.

To Log or not to Log, that is the Question?

With the changes of our licence and the fact that legally we no longer need to keep a log book what will you be doing? Do you think it's a good idea to scrap the log or a bad one. Give me your views and I will print them in the new format booklet in Feb.

Club Project update.

A few months ago we took on a small transceiver project as our first club construction project. Overall it was a great success, I know to a couple of people that have not even started their kits yet (me included with my 40m one). But all the others seem to have been built and working which is great, Do you think we should do another project next year? If so what should we look at building together? If we have new members or old ones that missed out we could offer the same kits again and offer a more advanced kit for those that want it. In fact I have 1x 80m small wonder labs SW+ kit and one 40m kit still over so if your interested have a look at the club web site and the build instructions on there then email me , first come first server. ed paul@fists.co.uk

Torch used In Morse Code Rescue

This article is From the BBC News Website

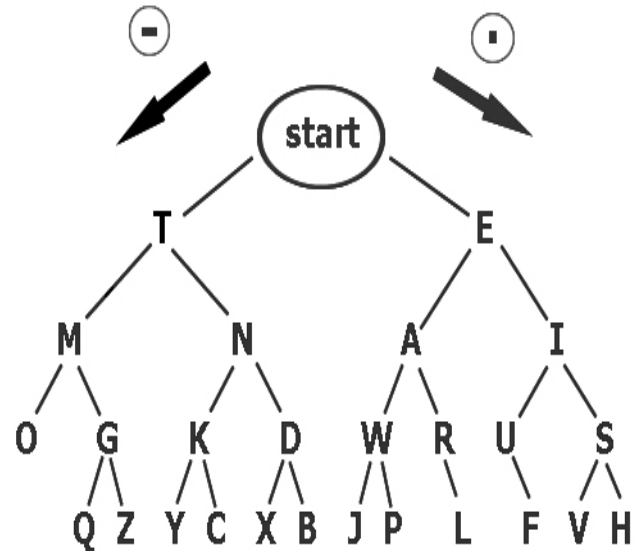
Coastguards in Hampshire have rescued a sailor who used a torch to flash an SOS message in Morse code. The man, who was taking his 28ft boat from Emsworth to Thorneham Marina when it began to take on water, had no safety equipment onboard. His SOS was picked up by Steve Mann at Hayling Island Sailing Club on Thursday evening. who responded by switching the control tower lights on and off. Mr Mann said " I was absolutely amazed to see the flashing SOS message" Coastguards and the RNLI lifeboat brought the man and his boat back to shore, where he was checked over by paramedics.

CQ CQ CQ Writers

Its hard work standing up on this soap box every month, and with the new format booklet just around the corner it could be harder for me so can I ask you to do me a favour and put pen to paper, finger to keyboard or mouth to phone and get in touch with me. If you have something to moan about, something to say about the state of ham radio today or a story related to CW in any form then get in touch ready for the next editions letters section.

Morse Decoder chart

While wasting 10 mins at lunch time one day searching around the internet for interesting stuff for keynote I came across a web site claiming to be offering a simple way to decode Morse. Below is a copy of the chart that they claim can be used by anyone to decode really slow CW. Give it a try and you will see that it can really work. Listen for the first dot or dash that is sent if it's a dot move from the start to the right, if the next sound is another dot move right, if it's a dash move left , you will soon get the idea. It really does work but don't expect to set any new speed records if you try it! Hi



A Big Thank you to Mandy

Due to the growing work load of managing the membership list etc, and home commitments Mandy, who as acted as club membership manager for some time now, is now leaving the post. I would like to thank her on behalf of the club and myself for the great help she has been to the club doing this important job. Please note that from now on John (M0CDL) who is also our treasurer as decided to take on this extra role. John has worked with Mandy to maintain the list so it makes sense for him to carry on the good work that the pair of them have started. Please make a note of the change of details on the banner if you need to contact the membership sec from now on.

Don't forget the forum!

Mark (M0BLT) tells me that he has over 200 members now taking part in the Yahoo group forum, I myself am a member and I must say it's a lively group on there. It's a great way to keep in touch with other FISTS members and to discuss such things as FISTS contests and the state of the bands, With keynote going to be produced in the new A5 Booklet once ever 3 months it's a great way to get your "fix" of what's happening with FISTS, nearly every club officer is a member and so you can ask questions and get fast answers this way too. I would urge all FISTS members that have internet access to join the group. In the new booklet Mark will be choosing Hot topics from the forum and we will be printing some of the best ones in each edition of Keynote for those that miss out on the online fun, also Mark as a number of polls running on there and the results for these will be published too. So don't delay join today! <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fistscw/>

Well its time to look at the contest and activities that are planed for 2007, only problem is that our contest manage Rob M0BPT as to many to fit on this page. I will put details of a a couple of them here now but will repeat these and give details of all the coming years contest in the Feb edition as we will have much more space for them then, so over to Rob...

You'll notice when looking through the 2007 offerings, that I've revamped the ACTIVITY LADDER and added another challenge to the calendar. The reason behind this is to hopefully get members involved in the challenges on offer and encourage newcomers to our Society and mode a chance to integrate as quickly and painlessly as possible. Whether you're a CW man with many years experience. Or new to CW, or a new member of our Society, You'll find something that you'll enjoy getting involved with. Remember, all our challenges are meant to be a friendly affair with the emphasis on a rag chew, far removed from the usual "CQ TEST=UR 599 73, GL= CQ TEST"

Take a look at "What's to do" within the FISTS Activity scene during 2007.

There has been a requirement, since the abolition of the Code Pass requirement here in the UK for a challenge that encourages newcomers, both to our society, and the airwaves, the joy of CW. I'm Introducing this challenge for 2007 which I hope will address this issue. Its not JUST for newcomers, it's for all society members, the nervous newcomer, and the experienced CW operator alike to come together.

Introducing; **The QRS UK POSTCODE/ZIP Challenge.** Start. January 2007 Finish. December 2007 Rules.

MAXIMUM speed of approx 12wpm! You will be expected to match the speed of your QSO partner (**Even if he/she is at 5wpm**) Band. Any Amateur band except WARC Dates. 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month

Times Two, two-hour sessions operating between the hours of 1400-1600 and 1900-2100 UTC.

NOTE: You can only submit ANY TWO of your two-hour sessions out of a possible four!

All information must be supplied to claim points for the QSO Date-Call-Band-Rprt-Name-Town-Postcode-FISTS NR-Points

Example M0BPT 80M 599/579 Rob West Bromwich B 5576(or NM) 2(or1) A town/postcode combination can only be worked once a month!! i.e. the letter "B" covers

Alcester, Birmingham, Bromsgrove, Cradley Heath, Halesowen, Oldbury, Redditch, Rowley Regis, Smethwick, Solihull, Studley, Sutton Coldfield, Tamworth, West Bromwich

Therefore, there are a possible 14 scoring combinations with the letter "B" and with over 100 postal code districts covering many towns in the UK the potential for good scores is high!! In the case of an overseas contact the town and zip must be supplied. (BEAR IN MIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON UK POSTCODES!!) (If anyone would like a list of UK postal districts, contact me) Scoring 1 point NM 2 points members, 3 points affiliated club stns, 5 points National club stns. Returns/Logs Monthly By the last day of the month in Excel format.

Awards Four,

Class1=QRP (Maximum 5Watts from the transmitter) Class2=QRP+ (Maximum 10Watts from the transmitter)

Class3=Mixed (Self explanatory) Class4=QRO (Licenced legal limit)

Therefore power output and class must be declared in your monthly return

Certificates to the first three in each class. All classes are open to any class of licensee, providing they DO NOT operate outside of their licence terms and conditions. This challenge is meant to be a leisurely one with emphasis on newcomers to our society and mode, but of course we hope our experienced members will join in and share their knowledge and experience with our newcomers. So newcomers and experienced alike, join in and dip your toes in the water! Good hunting! Any questions email me m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk As with any of our challenges they are operated on trust.

Dates of operation. Jan 7th/21st- Feb 4th/18th- Mar 4th/18th- Apr1st/15th- May 6th/20th- June 3rd/17th- July 1st/15th Aug 5th/19th- Sept 2nd/16th- Oct 7th/21st- Nov 4th/18th- Dec 2nd/16th

PLEASE NOTE, These contests are meant to be fun and friendly as well as competitive.

Any contact not showing the required return information will be excluded from the total scores.

All entries can be received by post or E-mail to;

R.D.Walker, 125, Devereux Road, West Bromwich. B70 6RQ. m0bpt@blueyonder.co.uk

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year From all the committee of FISTS. We look forward to 2007 which will be a great year for FISTS and the start of the new format Newsletter. The first one will be out in Feb 2007 , don't forget to send in any article, letters, for sales, or wanted ads , I will be only to pleased to include them in the new format . Deadline for copy for Febs edition will be 20th Jan ! Ed.