

## International Morse Preservation Society



# KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

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

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### OFFICES

#### QSL Manager: M0AVW

32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

#### PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh

3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY

#### CONTEST MANAGER: M5AGL

15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

### COMMITTEE

**Chairman**  
**Vice Chairman**  
**P.R.O.**  
**Secretary**

G4XHZ  
G4YLB  
G4YLB  
G3ZQS

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](mailto: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](mailto:spence5@ntlworld.com)>

M0AYI Glenn@[m0ayi.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:m0ayi.freeseve.co.uk)

M5AGL bobm5agl@[btopenworld.com](mailto:btopenworld.com)

M0ZAK jim.steel@[ntlworld.com](mailto: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, BARNSELY, 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

Oh boy.... wotta month. Old Sol was clearly suffering from some gastric problem and skewed up the bands in no uncertain fashion for the second month running. The consequence of this was that 30m again proved the most productive band for those of us who live normal lives. The early to bed - early to rise brigade were enjoying life a little more with 40m producing some respectable DX. There must be thousands of you who like my-self are on another planet until mid-morning. Oooh!

The sun brings 'em all out of the woodwork. Long in need of a new outside door, a chance call by one of those wandering paid-by-results doorstep prowlers caused me to invite a quote. Not too impressed with an estimate of £888 which did not include VAT even, I wished the rep happy wandering and looked further afield. First quote was £440 - less than half. What sort of a world are we living in I ask?

Whose got an iffy 'S' meter then? Manfred reported from Berlin on 40m with 549 over his own report of 589 and I was immediately called by Bert from the same city who proffered 599. Rather suspect that Manfred had more than a few dB of attenuation in circuit though I must confess that it does tend to improve the signal to noise ratio somewhat. Thinking along those lines, I did something I haven't done for years. I normally run with no AGC - merely switching it in temporarily to view the 'S' meter movement - but this time, I wound the RF gain back to around 50% and listened via the outboard AF filter. Why have I been struggling all this time with noise when I get results like that?



### GRANDAD

Hey... that's quite a good looking Grandma! Pity I can't say the same of M0AVW. The child (Owen) is obviously shattered after a session with Grandad anticipating some future help and explaining the filing system for QSL cards. Now then Chuck - Cameras were never so robust in my day mate!

### THE IN-BOX

**G3XVF.** Richard is on the prowl for kit to update the various items of ten-tec gear he has on hand (see last month re Sale). Unsurprisingly, the main criteria is a decent RX section and to this end he has been doing a little fishing:

*I tried a test this weekend in the CQ WW CW WPX contest, I make a note in the log of the stations which came back to me first time, and the ones who had problems, (didn't hear me) for this test I only gave 1 call to other stations and turned the power output right down to 10 watts.*

*Now the problem, finding what transceivers they were using, the only thing I can do is to search the internet and also look on the DX Contest reflectors because of 599 001 QRZ etc, now the contest is over I will look for those calls for a chat to find out what rig they use, but most of these stations you only hear in contests.*

Yes.... there's the rub Richard. Like many, I am at a loss to explain the fascination of contests but an even greater enigma is the number of excellent CW operators who only turn up during contests.

**G4RCG.** I will be HI9/G4RCG Jan 17th 2004 for 2 weeks and will be looking for members daily on 10118 skeds can be arranged if required. Now that's what I call good advance notice but you have someone here with the brain of the Pooh Bear and a memory to go with it so a reminder round about mid November would be appreciated. As you know, I usually take December off to keep an eye on my chimney!

**F5SGI.** In the June issue, I came across a short note entitled "Accentedchars". Unlike what was stated by Charles, GW3SB and Micke, SM5JAB, may I point out that most of us do use accents for our CW chitchats. Indeed, the "é" (di di da di di) is widely used, as well as the "à" (di da da di da) (as in "à bientôt", i.e. "see you soon", where, actually, the e with circumflex accent is not used. I must confess I ignore it...). We very rarely use the grave accent ("di da di di dah"). And here's me thinking we had heard the last of the subject. Hi. However, I have listened round quite a bit and it is rare indeed that accented chars have been heard between F/F or indeed any other EU country. Jean-Marc is not on his own. There were a few other emails and letters on the same subject this month some of which went into great depth about 'local' use of accented chars but each one emphasizing that as far as written matter is concerned, they may comfortably be dispensed with. Do I now re-write my language notes to dispense with them? I think not. Hi.

**M0PCB.** Hi Geo, As I write this my brain is returning to some sort of normality after yet another maths exam, just one of 6 thanks to the new AS/A level modular system (don't get me started about that!!). I am, however, unhappy to have to report that my on air activities have been much less than present and I hereby offer some kind of excuse. Mainly due to the fact I feel awful reading comments about participation levels in events knowing that I myself didn't take part even though I wanted to.

I do enjoy operating CW and worked hard to get my CC (#1208) but these last few months, more like a year really, have seen me with less and less time for radio. It's now got to the stage where none of the radios get switched on regularly anymore. This is down to what some may call "A' Levels". I'm sure you know of them. These funny things called exams, whereby the examiner takes great pleasure in making us students squirm (no offence to any A Level examiners is intended!!). I suppose I brought it on myself by wanting to get off to university and study RF Engineering but it leaves me with more work to do than time to do it in.

Anyway I should really stop moaning and get on with the revision, although I felt it necessary to share the pain, hi!. I'm looking forward to July and after, no more exams, no more work, I might even get back on the key!!

73, Iain M0PCB / MIETJ (FISTS: 7194, cc: 1208)

Web: [www.m0pcb.co.uk](http://www.m0pcb.co.uk) <---- and I'll plug the website while I'm here!! hi!

PS - and if this gets a mention in "ye olde keynote" it'll be after my exams have finished and I will have started my efforts to get QRV on the bands again with more CW..

**F5NQL** Again I am grateful to Maurice for his input which this month includes:

**Barry, G4MFW, ZS1FJ, ZL1MFW and Phil, G3SWH** will be on Mangareva Island in the Gambier Islands of French Polynesia (IOTA OC-063) and from Rurutu Island in the Austral Islands (IOTA OC-050) between 10th and 22nd July 2003. The actual dates of each operation are to be decided but we hope to be on each island for at least five days.

Propagation permitting, we shall be active on all bands from 40 to 10 metres on SSB and CW and hope to work as many European, North American and ROTW stations as possible. Special callsigns have been applied for and will be announced as soon as they are known. The QSL route(s) will also be announced later. Donations towards the high cost of this expedition are invited and may be sent to either ZS1FJ or G3SWH.

**Mike, K9AJ and Jim, K9PPY** will activate Somerset Island (NA-new) from July 13-20. They may have two stations on the air, depending on conditions. As there will be no sunset (>500 miles north of Arctic Circle), they plan no activity below 40m on this trip. Callsigns will be K9AJ/VY0 and K9PPY/VY0. K9XYL/VY0 might also be QRV.

After Somerset Island, K9AJ/VY0 will be QRV from Southampton Island (NA-007) from July 22-24.

It is possible that some activity might occur from Cornwallis Island (NA-009) and/or Baffin Island (NA-047) during the time period July 11-26, so pay attention to the QTH info given by the operator.

Usual IOTA frequencies will be used on CW & SSB. QSL to operator's home call.

Look for Martial, to be active as **FH/F5SIE**, from Mayotte island (AF027, DIFO FH001) between the 1st and the 15th of July 2003.

It's a CW only dxpedition and the traffic will be held on 7, 18 and 21 MHz with a TS 50 and wires. QSL, please via the French REF bureau.

Location: 12Â°30'–13Â°15'S - 044Â°45'–045Â°03' 59.6% islands hunters claim to date for this island.

**Keyer sought.**

73 de Richard G3XVF

If you hear of anyone selling a Samson ETM9C X3 Keyer made by DJ2BW, (same circuit as the super keyer III) QST Mag, PLEASE let me know.

Have just telephoned G3TUX and he has sold out, and he tells me that DJ2BW has retired and not making any more keyers.

73 de Richard G3XVF

Exactly what the following is about I know not but seems to have something to do with the RSGB and sponsored junk sales:

I am thinking of sorting out, a way of verifying users names, callsigns and addresses. This facility will be a chargeable feature of the junksale, but there will still be no cost involved by placing adverts. The cost of address verification will probably be £5.

What will happen if you are verified is that the title under your user name will be altered from member to verified.

This means that the address you supplied will have been verified as being correct, as you will have to confirm a password sent in a letter sent to your address, which in turn means that buyers should be able to place more trust in your adverts, as you would not be able to be verified if you were not at the address supplied.

If you are interested in this idea please let me know.

[chris@radiosociety.org.uk](mailto:chris@radiosociety.org.uk). Chris - G0TOO

If it applies to you that's fine but if you are as puddled as myself then skip. Hi.

## JARGON

There's jargon and there's more jargon. There are a few organisations out there who are intent upon demolishing any bridges between high powered business, computer whiz-kids, medical and scientific circles generally and those of us who, through lack of educational opportunities at the time speak only plain English. There are also others who should be applauded for their efforts to re-build the aforesaid structures but I fear they may well be on to a loser. The sales rep was most offended when in the process of fixing an order for some printer ink when I queried his terse comment 'Contact?'. "Sorry" I stuttered.. "I don't appear to have one".

"Then what are you speaking to me on?"

"A telephone"

"Well what is your contact number?"

"I don't know what you mean"

"How can I contact you?"

The penny finally dropped and I gave him my phone number but asked why he could not call it that instead of 'contact' in the first place. I could almost see him tearing out his thatch in frustration and was treated to long discourse on the subject. Grrr!

How many of you are infuriated by this stuff. Something goes wrong with your computer. You seek assistance. You get an email asking for information which you simply don't know the meaning of. AMD, PMCIA, XYZ, DSO and bar - it's endless. Does this mean that if you buy a car and it 'ceases to proceed' you are expected to have an honours degree in engineering or something before a service engineer will be booked to attend it? I bought an external hard disc for the purpose of taking complete backups together with a USB2 port to plug it into. It was only of minor inconvenience when I discovered that I had to unplug it and reinsert in order for my system to recognise the drive after a reboot. The list of information requested was horrendous and after I explained that I was a user and not a technician, someone on the help desk with a human soul understood and fixed the problem

with an updated driver. This however is a rare circumstance and if you are that lucky yourself the pse come and fill in my lottery ticket!

### MAY 2003 LADDER

Conditions again have been poor and the lack of contestants left those who took part to find contacts where they could. Ron G0MRH decided to try the CQ.WW-WPX contest for his points and was rewarded with 101 points.

MAY 2003 RETURNS.		ANNUAL TOTALS.	
G0MRH	101	G4LHI	273
G3VQO	32	G4AQZ	214
G4LHI	32	M5ABN	181
M0DRK	14	G3VQO	168
M0RHB	10	G0MRH	151
M0AYI	9	M0AYI	114
M5BRY	8	M5AGL	94
M0CMQ	6	HB9CHE	83
M3XGQ	4	OH7QR	71
		M0DRK	65
		M0RHB	62
		M0CMQ	50
		M0BRY	24
		G0SOP	24
		GW0SGG	17
		M3XGQ	10
		G0XAH	10
		M3GBT	7

### RESULTS OF THE EUCW QRS PARTY 2003.

#### CLASS A

CALL	CLUB	POINTS
IK2RMZ	AGCW	15293
G0EML	FISTS	9986
G4LHI	FISTS	8855
PA3AFF	HSC	2408
DL6KCR	AGCW	1582
G3VQO	FISTS	938
M5BRY	FISTS	759
M5AGL	FISTS	481
M0AYI	FISTS	252
M5ABN	FISTS	105
G4XPR	FISTS	12
M3XGQ	FISTS	12

#### CLASS B

CALL	CLUB	POINTS
RW3AI	G-QRP	8118
G0UPL	FISTS	855
G4FAI	FISTS	14

#### CLASS C&D NO RETURNS.

#### Award for the most readable Morse.

CALL.	VOTES.
G0EML	3
M5BRY	1
IK2RMZ	1
G4HWK	1
M5ABN	1

G0EML will receive the certificate for the most readable Morse.

Thank you to all who took part, it's a pity we could not have had more returns from the remaining 32 clubs. Lets hope the conditions will improve for next months ladder. 73 fer now and good hunting de Bob M5AGL.

### SECRET WAR

*Hello Geo...*

*We had a message from Nancy Kott, editor of Worldradio magazine saying you may be interested in this...*

*We would like to suggest a possible article/review in 'The Key-note' about a new video documentary we have recently completed. It tells of the secret wireless operations in World War Two, and involves radio amateurs now in their late seventies.*

### FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

*The RSGB have endorsed the film and have promoted it in Radcom and on their website.*

*Since we have finished the video late last year we have had a great deal of interest from radio amateurs not only in the UK but in New Zealand, Germany, Canada, Holland and the USA. Seasoned US amateurs such as John Swartz (WA9AQN) and Jerry Berg website <<http://www.ontheshortwaves.com>> have promoted our work in the US, and it is looking likely that the 'Secret Wireless War' will be shown on 3 PBS stations in Illinois in August and September.*

*Naturally we think that many mature 'Keynote' readers and 'Fists' members might want to know about the secret use of wireless in World War Two (told largely by the operators themselves), and whether you would be interested in us writing an article about the film in 'The Keynote'. We believe that this story is largely untold and a great deal of American radio equipment was used to help win WW2.*

*A good idea of the article is already written if you visit: <http://www.grindelwald.co.uk/wireless/> - there are many good resolution still pictures (jpegs) from the film that could be sent and reproduced.*

*We use our website to promulgate the 2-hour video here in England and have VHS copies readily available. We of course would like send a complimentary copy to you, if you wish, if you can give us your address.*

*Look forward to hearing from you, David and Debra Rixon---*  
GRINDELWALD PRODUCTIONS 01844 347180

*Take a look at our website... <http://www.grindelwald.co.uk>*

*This came right out of the blue for me and unfortunately, I donot have a video recorder but on a strictly first-come first-served basis, if any member would like to undertake this review then LMK and I will ask Grindwald if they would kindly forward the quoted complimentary copy.*

## G3TUX

### The QRP Component Company

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/IRC for prices/data  
PO Box 88, HASLEMERE, GU27 2RF  
Phone 01428-661501 FAX 01428-66795

### SILENT KEY

On 17 June after a long illness, G0VPI #07121. Filippo (Fil). I am indebted to Lisa, M0BQD for this information and trust she will be able to convey to Filippo's family our condolences. Also on 22 May, Brian, G0VMI. No further info but advice from his widow.

### NOTE FOR AUGUST

Look for Paul-Joël, F2YT, touring the Italian province of Grossetto (I5) from Aug 8th to 31st. Using the callsign I/F2YT, he will be active from a lot of Italian castles which count for the Italian Castles Award. Ottavio, IK1PML, the well known QSL cards printer, will go with him, at times

A short trip to Elba island is also scheduled between aug 15th and 31st, where Paul will sign IA5/F2YT (IOTA EU-028, IIA LI-001) Info in due time, have a look on the clusters. The traffic is planned on 7052 and 14252 kHz SSB, but, by request, Paul can QSO in CW on the same frequency. QSL via F2YT, either direct or via the bureau. Because of the date I have included this item which if you havent already guessed, is from F5NQL.

### COAST STATIONS TRAFFIC

*As a special part of the ceremony surrounding this change NMC*

will return to the air using Morse code (CW) and possibly radioteletype (RTTY). These services, once the mainstays of Coast Guard communications, have been retired for several years but will be reinstated for this ceremony.

At present the frequencies known to be authorized for NMC are 8574kc and 500kc with the possible addition of 488kc. Additional HF frequencies may be authorized by the time of the event. Those wishing the latest information about NMC frequencies and times of operation should write directly to TCCM Loren R. O'Banion at LObanion@d11.uscg.mil.

The public is invited to visit NMC to participate in this event. The unit's Receiver Site, located at 17000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd on the Pt Reyes National Seashore will be open to the public between the hours of 9am and 3pm. Persons wishing to attend must RSVP to (415) 669-2004.

KPH will activate its HF and MF transmitters to participate in this historic event and to give listeners the opportunity to hear three US coast stations on the air - possibly for the last time. KFS will also return to the air on a single frequency.

KPH will transmit on 6477.5, 8642.0, 12808.5 and 17016.5 on HF and on 500 and 426kc on MF. KFS will transmit on 17026.0kc. These frequencies have been made available through the generous cooperation of Globe Wireless, the current owner of the KPH and KFS licenses.

KPH and KFS operators will listen for calls from ships on 6276.0, 8368.0, 12552.0 and 16736.0 on HF and 500kc on MF.

Thanks again to Maurice for the info and I know there are many of you out there who will appreciate the information.

## G4ZPY

### KEYS AND PADDLES

All items hand-crafted with the skill of a trained engineer. Also miniature versions which are much acclaimed throughout the world.

SAE/IRC TO:

41 Mill Dam Lane, Burscough, ORMSKIRK, L40 7TG

Tel: 01704-884299

e-mail: g4zpy@lineone.net

<http://website.lineone.net/~gzpy/index.htm>

### THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

**EI5EM.** Just a quick note to say that my callsign was incorrectly listed in the new members column in Key Note some issues ago. I was given a welcome as an Italian callsign rather than my Irish call EI5EM. Hope all is correct in the database for me? Just back from Dayton where I had a great time. I am fortunate that my brother lives in Michigan and he is only 230 miles from Dayton. I kill two birds with the one stone every year. Didn't get around all the flea market though as it rained cats and dogs on the Saturday when I scheduled the outdoor walkabout.

I bought a beauty of a key. It has a bakelite cover with the following markings KEY. MORSE. TYPE D REF No. 10F/7373. Beneath these markings are the letters A and M with a small crown between them. This is followed by SERIAL No. which is blank. Anybody got any ideas of its origins? Yup you are correct in the listings Tony and I guess the old peepers were playing up again. Hi. **DL1CC.** Wolf includes QSLs from SO1CC/P (JO84AG), Isle of Wolin (EU132) and 8S6UEA for the Esperanto World Congress from Gotenburg. He is also hoping to be active from the UK from 3 August. **M0TOP** queries the preferred frequencies for the slower stuff. Well, 80m is best really - establish QSO and QSY up the band (3.65 plus). Not trying to discourage the slow boys from using 40m but it is a very restricted band so keep 'em short and sweet. For the HF bands, .058 on 20, 15 and 10mtrs but again, QSY up when QSO established. 30m is also a good band for QRS and, when they are open, 17 and 12 mtrs. **G3JJG.** Disappointed not to find anyone active for the Sprint event. Guess the state of the bands put most of them off Gerry. **G4RFS.** Stan drops me a line from his hospital bed after the lower part of his body became paralysed. "For a golfer" he says, "it is the ultimate indignity". Sincerely hope that the wheelchair is not the last word Stan though he quips that under those circumstances, Radio will take preference. **G3LPS.** Eric refers to "STENDEC"

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

(G0FVS) and recalls a programme detailing the find of human bones in an Andean glacial scrub thought to be the remains of the bomber Stardust. The Lancasters R1115/T1154 hardly produced the cleanest signal and there's a close relationship between Stardust and Stendec. **G3RFH.** Ken surrounded by unopened boxes in his 'new' 100yr old QTH got his priorities right by erecting a doublet. Lost one end but managed to keep going with mag loop. Come on Ken.. get those boxes sorted mate. Hi. **2E0AIZ.** Harks back to when he was teaching a bunch of scouts in Bahrain. Most of 'em did 20wpm. They could not read English but everything came through as one long word. **G3DOV.** Inactive since Oct due to broken halyard from pole and jammed pulley at top of tower. Tower climbing for registered blind octogenarian frowned upon but hope to be active asap.

### KKI AND THE MAGLOOP

After all the interest shown I thought the least I could do was to reproduce this rather blocky .jpg file showing the main structure of the 80/40m loop. Judging by the variable, the loop was in its early stages when this picture was taken. Scruffy individual ain't he?



### MORSUM MAGNIFICAT



Samuel F.B. Morse  
1791-1872

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Home page: <http://www.morsum.demon.co.uk>

### FINALE

Whoops! I almost ran out of space again. Hi. Enjoy the summer wx folks and hope old Sol mends his manners soon. 73/88 and stay sober de Geo

JULY 2003

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