

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>

E-Mail HQ: fist1@btinternet.com webmaster: webmaster@asel.demon.co.uk

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

Chairman
Vice Chairman
P.R.O.
Secretary

COMMITTEE

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>
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.

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.freemove.co.uk

M5AGL bobm5agl@btopenworld.co

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). M5AAQ. 6 Central Ave, SHEPHERD, 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

Back to winter again after a promising period which showed possibilities of an early spring. Uuuugh! Still, all is not doom and gloom. The HF bands are opening periodically during daylight hours which must be good news to the many who are chasing elusive CC numbers.

Here in West Lancashire, we have thus far been fortunate with only a couple of centimetres of snow but even this has been enough to cause some serious disruption in traffic movement. It barely covered Suzy's tiny paws but we had north bound traffic backed up as far as was visible whilst the southbound stuff was proceeding at little more than walking pace. In contrast, pictures from Finland with half a metre or more of the fluffy white stuff showed traffic flowing at a merry old pace. Where are we going I wonder?

Had a couple of reports of last months' Chirpy Charlie - seems few indeed were bothering to monitor the bands - but the good thing is that such occurrences are now becoming quite a rarity

with some pretty good commercial gear finding its way into Eastern Europe. Meanwhile the QRP brigade is becoming much more conspicuous especially on 40m with some very superior stuff like the Elecraft K2 and its super stable VFOs. I am constantly surprised at the stability of some of the QRP kit these days.

REMINDER KOKUP

It all started last month when I picked up a new laser printer (the Brother 1850 with duplex attachment). This has certainly eased my workload but the reminder slips which were formatted for the old A3 pinter clearly would not work on an A4 job. However, there in the same directory was an A4 version and I promptly printed out a batch from this without checking. It harked back to the days when the Post Office operated two separate rates for Europe - EEC and the rest - and these went out unnoticed quoting subs of £6.00 for the EEC and £7.00 for the rest of Europe. You will be aware that since those days, a single postal rate has been fixed Europe-wide which increased the cost of mail to the EEC whilst at the same time, marginally reducing those to the rest of Europe. The result was that a lot of members sent £6.00 for their subs when £5.00 was the correct rate. Failing to notice the errant reminder slip on the first few, I assumed the extra to be a donation and routinely sent listings to acknowledge.

When the penny did finally drop, I went through these excess payments and added a couple of months to the renewal date.

Sorry about that folks but I trust the above action will serve to compensate.

PRINTER

Yes, I finally got round to supplementing the trusty A3 laser printer with a robust A4 but hardly had this been done when the Epson A3 inkjet started giving me serious problems after over two years of good service. Went through half a dozen ink cartridges in order to restore the black and spent the best part of a week attempting to blast the printheads clean with a special 'cleaning' cartridge. I finally succeeded in this but all that cleaning emptied the colour cartridge and on replacing it, the black failed again and with a brand new full cartridge.

Thoroughly fed up with all this I swore I would not touch another Epson inkjet with a barge pole and went in search of a replacement. A comparative newcomer to the HP range was purchased and it took barely two minutes to highlight a serious snag. There was an unduly excessive bottom margin beyond which no ink could be laid. Wouldn't even complete the bottom row of a sheet of labels. Phone calls to HP produced no solution - there was simply no fix on the software for this problem unlike the Epson which permitted over-riding the margin limitation and printing to within 5mm of any edge.

The HP was returned and having already wasted two days of frantic running around, my faith in anything other than Epson was thoroughly shaken so a tolerably heavy duty Epson C82 found its way onto my desk. In terms of the default bottom margin, it was even more restrictive than the HP but the same software option existed as on the original so I managed to clear a small backlog of QSL cards and labels.

The cartridges themselves are more expensive than the originals

but the difference is such that it is not necessary to adjust the price of Cards. A bonus is that the new Dura-ink used has a no-fade figure of over 90 years and it is also declared to be water-proof.

NEEDS INFO

I am ZL2OB fists club 9092 from Feilding in New Zealand. I am seeking assistance to locate details on the clandestine radio the ;Paraset; circuit diagrams and panel layout are in the Tec Topics november 1982 page 961. I obtained these details from the Tec topics book 1990 to 1994 on page 304. My object is to construct an o-perating replica. I have had no success to locate this info here in NZ and would appreciate any help.
Des O'Brien 133 Makino Rd Feilding NZ

EUCW QRS RULES

Ooooooh! Seems I grabbed the wrong file last month. Thanks to Dick, G8NT for pointing out my error.
Herewith updated info from Bob, M5AGL:

To encourage newcomers to Morse operating, and as a contribution to the activities of the European CW Association, FISTS CW Club invites all licensed radio amateurs, especially members of EUCW clubs, to take part in the annual EUCW/FISTS QRS Party.

This event provides an opportunity for EUCW club members, and non-members, to meet and exchange greetings with each other at a leisurely pace. At the same time it is an opportunity to make contacts qualifying for the prestigious *Worked EUCW* award. Although not a contest in the normal sense of the word, there is a contest element for those who thrive on challenge, with awards for those who score the most points, and a merit award for the "Most Readable Morse Heard" voted for by other contestants.

In this event, taking part is more important than winning, providing fun for all in a non-stressful introduction to a contest-like event for beginners, and an opportunity for more experienced operators to put something back into the hobby by helping and encouraging those less experienced in CW operating.

Feedback can only be obtained from contestants' reports so, whatever your level of experience, and even if you only have time to make a few contacts, please make an effort to send in a log.

DATES/TIMES: From 00.01 UTC on the fourth Sunday in April, for one week, to 23.59 UTC on the following Saturday. For 2003, the dates will be **Sunday 27th April to Saturday 3rd May**.

MODE: CW only.

FREQUENCIES: All bands, except WARC bands. Non-QRP stations are requested to avoid calling CQ on the popular QRP frequencies.

KEYS/SPEEDS: Any type of key or keyer may be used, but no keyboard sending or pre-programmed messages from computers or keyers allowed. Maximum speed 14 words per minute (70 cpm). **The speed of a QSO should be at the speed of the slower station**

CALL: CQ QRS/EUCW. Stations may be worked or logged once each day in each band used

EUCW CLUBS: Listen out for members of the following clubs, taking part in the EUCW/FISTS QRS Party:

AGCW-DL (Germany); Benelux-QRPC; BTC (Belgium); CFT (Belgium); CT-CWC (Portugal); EACW (Spain); EA-QRPC (Spain); EHSC (Extremely High Speed Club); FISTS; FOC (First Class Operators); G-QRP; GTC (Greece); HACWG (Hungary); HCC (Spain); HSC (High Speed Club); HTC (Switzerland); INORC (Italy); I-QRPC (Italy); ITC (Italy); MCWG (Macedonia); OE-CWG (Austria); OHTC (Finland); OK-QRPC (Czech Republic); RTC (former GDR); SCAG (Scandinavia); SHSC (Super High Speed Club); SP-CWC (Poland); UCWC (Russia); UFT (France); U-QRQC (Ukraine); VHSC (Very High Speed Club); YL-CW-GP (Germany); 3A-CW-G (Monaco); 9ACWG (Croatia).

CLUB MEMBERSHIP: Entrants who are members of more than one EUCW club should take part in the QRS party as a member of only one of those clubs.

CLASSES:

A - Members of EUCW clubs using more than 10w input or 5w

EXCHANGES:

Class A & B, RST/QTH/Name/Club/membership number

Class C, RST/QTH/Name/NM (ie, not a member)

Class D, Log information for both stations

SCORING:

Class A/B/C - 1 point per QSO with own country, 3 points per QSO with other European countries.

Class D - 3 points for every complete logged QSO. Multiplier, all classes: 1 multiplier point for each EUCW-club worked/logged per day and band

LOGS: To include date, UTC, band, call worked, info sent, info received, and score claimed for each QSO

SUMMARY: To include entrant's full name, call, address, EUCW club, Class entered, multiplier claimed, total points claimed, station details, including type of key/keyer used, power used, comments (if any) on the event, up to three votes for "Most Readable Morse Heard" (only one vote per station), and signature of entrant.

E-mailed logs and summaries are acceptable, provided they follow the same format as detailed above.

ENTRIES: Send log and summary to:

FISTS/EUCW Contest Manager,

R. Kimpton, M5AGL,

15a Buckden Road,

Brampton, Huntingdon,

Camb. PE28 4PR. England.

e-mail bobm5agl@btopenworld.com

All logs to be received (by surface mail or e-mail) not later than **31st May 2003**.

AWARDS:

a) A certificate will be awarded to the three top scorers in each class.

b) A certificate of merit will be awarded to the operator receiving most votes for the "Most Readable Morse Heard", provided the operator nominated has also submitted a log. If the recipient of the most votes has not submitted a log the certificate of merit will be awarded to the qualifying entrant with the next highest number of votes. In the event of a tie multiple certificates will be awarded, endorsed "*Shared Award*".

No correspondence can be entered into. The Contest Manager's decision shall be final in making all awards.

G3TUX

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ZL NATIONAL FISTS CALL

In company with the US gang, Ralph - ZL2AOH - advises me that he has applied for **ZL6FF** which will serve as a club call for awards purposes.

INTERFERENCE PBLM SOLVED

GW4KUS had a problem with RF screwing up his computer logging prog and wrote:

Transmitter interfered with Logging programme.

Remedied by:- winding abt 6 turns of the Keyboard lead on 5/8 inch ferrite rod; secured with self amal insult tape. OR - by max turns on 1.5 inch dia; ferrite ring. Hi !!

I must look into this more closely - I get a little patterning on my 17inch TFT screen but more annoyingly, prominent thumps and bangs on the AF amplifier when running on 40m.

F5NQL

Again our trusty Maurice comes up with a few interesting items:
TM6

Book your diary with this updated topic received to day from Jean Marc, F5SGI who will be on Groix Island (IOTA EU048, DIFM AT012) from April 7th to 12th, using CW with the special call sign : **TM6ILE** from 80 to 10 meters

His stay was previously dated from April 14th to 20th). QSL via bureau or direct

Code tests

Maurice culled an the following from the ARRL newsletter:
A six-year-old girl from Roseburg, Oregon, has upgraded from Technician to General. Mattie Clauson, KD7TYN—a fourth-generation Amateur Radio operator in her family—could be the youngest General-class operator in the US. Her new ticket was granted January 13. Now then... who is complaining that the CW test is hard work???

G0JLX

Just a note to tell you that I have (finally) got my own home page sorted out.

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/g0jlx/> will find it, or you can do a search for the link page on [QSL.net](http://www.qsl.net)

Andy of course as most of you will know is our webmaster doing a find job of keeping our EU web page in order and running the email keynote operation. Please remember that the lad is *extremely* busy working for a living and generally speaking only has the weekends available so please keep enquiries or problems to a minimum. He will do what he can to help in the event of problems but can find his in-box overflowing most weekends with several hundred emails.

QRM ON 80M

Most nights on 3.558 I hear an electronically generated female voice phonetically announcing "Kilo Delta Alpha Two" repeatedly. It may disappear for about 10 to 20 minutes but then reappear, annoyingly, right in the middle of a QSO.

I have asked around but no one seems to know what it is. Any other FISTS members suffered this and have any clue what it is? Thanks for your help

Vy best 73 de John (MOTIF member 7130)

To be honest John, I haven't got the vaguest idea what this stuff is. Frequently enough it is sufficiently strong to screw up a QSO but in any event I usually QSY down until it is just out of the 500Hz bandpass. Wonder if any of the gang are better informed?

THE SOURCELESS ENQUIRY

Another mystery raises it's head in the form of an enquiry from someone in Berkshire. Would like to learn more about FISTS etc and could I please send him an application form. Snag is that the only ID is an indecipherable signature - **no** return address and **no** call sign. Anyone think they know this guy would they please ask him to try again.

FISTS AWARDS

For those of you who have reached the end of the line in respect of awards, there are a number which are US oriented though I am sure claims would be very welcome:

Mobile Award

Attained by accumulating 100 points from 2-way CW QSOs whilst mobile as from 1 Sept 1998. Same requirements as for the Century award.

Worked all States Award

Work all 50 states in continental US for this one. Stations worked **must** be FISTS members at the time of contact. Check sheet available from the US website or via Dennis, K6DF. Those not QRV on the web LMK and I will QSP.

Rag chewers Award

Make 100 2-way CW QSOs each lasting at least 30 minutes with another FISTS member on/after 1 Sept 1998. Duplicate contacts are valid but they must be made on different dates. You may apply for this award **only once**.

1 x QRP Award

Earned by working 100 points with FISTS members whilst you are operating QRP (5 watts or less). FISTS operating from the same country as yourself are worth 1 point and those in other countries (as defined by DXCC rules) are worth 2 points. Club

stations yield 3 points. No mention here of National Club stations which under CC would be worth 5 points but will clarify if necessary.

2 x QRP Award

Conditions as above except that **both** stations must be running QRP as defined above.

LISTINGS

A degree of confusion here. Please remember that UK/Europe, US and ZL each use a block of 100 numbers until exhausted. They then adopt the next free block which frequently means they are leapfrogging the other two chapters. Sounds unnecessarily complicated but it works fine.

Also, there are duplicated numbers. This accommodates members who have more than one call sign so don't get into a flap if whilst scanning the list you find these seeming anomalies.

MID-CHESHIRE ARS

I am asked to advise you that the above club will be hosting a Radio Rally on Bank Holiday Monday, 5 May 2003 at Winsford Civic Hall. Contact David, G4XUV on 01606-77787.

DATONG FL2 AF FILTER

This is a cracking piece of kit for those with no DSP or sharp CW filters. I have one here for disposal - a donation from G4YSQ to club funds - which (unlike my own FL2) works perfectly. It was originally intended to be used at a rally either raffle or auction but these days, it is rare indeed that I can make an appearance. Tentative stabs at evaluation varied between £30 and £50 so if those interested would care to make a bid, it is waiting here for you at HQ. It is complete with destructions and all connections and arrangements can be made either to post or pick up.

HAPPY EASTER

Steve, M0ECS asserts that he has **not** learned all those phrases. Like my-self I guess he calls up a crib sheet but for those who may wish to offer Easter greetings he gives:

Croatian Sretan uskr

Czech Vesele vanoce

Danish God påske

Dutch Gelukkig paasfeest

French Joyeuses pâques

German Frohe ostern

Hungarian Boldog husveti ünnepek

Italian Buona pasqua

Lithuanian Linksmu velyku

Macedonian Sreken veligden

Maltese L-Ghid it-Tajjeb

Norwegian God påske

Polish Wesolych swiat

Portuguese Boa pascoa

Spanish Felices pascuas

Swedish Glad påsk

For loads more common phrases and greetings in a variety of languages operators can check out the web address: www.nypl.org/branch/central_units/d/f/useful.htm. Alternatively, if it is not the sort of thing to publish, FISTS members can email me at fists@m0ecs.waitrose.com and I will email them back the list in Word 7 format. I would be very interested to know the greeting in any missing European languages.

Note that accented chars people and of course, offer your greetings at the end of a QSO otherwise you may be lumbered with a stream of unintelligible data on the assumption that you are comfortable with the language. Hi.

AMATEUR RADIO FORUM

I have received an invitation from the RA to attend either the LEEDS forum on 27 March or the BRISTOL forum on 29 March. It is of course not possible for me to attend at either of these venues so if any-one local to them would care to sit in and report it would be most appreciated.

"The events will allow amateurs to ask questions on any aspects of radio use involving the RA - topics will include the uptake of Foundation Licences, WCR policy announcements, in fact any area of amateur policy you would like to discuss. I will be there with Denise Carter and colleagues from RA HQ, the local Regional Offices will be represented, and members of the RSGB

and other bodies will be on hand to put their points of view. Each event begins with registration and lunch from 12 noon, with the formal proceedings starting at 1pm and ending at 4pm. There is no charge, but places are limited and tickets will be issued on a 'first-come' basis. So book early, and let us know if you are unable to attend so your place can be re-allocated. If you need to bring a carer, please indicate on the booking form and ensure that he or she remains for the duration of the meeting.

The Amateur Radio Fora have been set up in response to comments that the RA Roadshows are too business-oriented. The fora are **your** meetings - we want to hear your views as well as tell you about new developments."

Sadly, someone at the RA has been reading too much American pulp and the application form requesting Name, address etc., is headed "Yes please!" Alright... it is a personal bogey but I just **hate** people assessing my level of intelligence by writing what they want me to say on the assumption that I am unable to do this for myself and expecting me to endorse it. Grrrrrr!

G4ZPY

KEYS AND PADDLES

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

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e-mail: g4zpy@lineone.net

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

THE DX STUFF

6/20 March, CT3/DL3KWR/DL3KWF, Madeira

8/20 March, ZK1EAA, S. Cook Islands

8/15 March, VP6, Ducie Isl

9/22 March, 3B8/ON4AME, Mauritius

10/21 March, HH4, Haiti

14/17 March, 3G1P, Pan de Azucar isl

15/22 March, ZK1FAA, S. Cook isl

23 March/10 April, 9Y4/DL7DF, Trinidad/Tobago

26 March/6 April, 3D2IZ, Fiji

There are others noted but not specifically CW. This info incidentally is derived from "Announced DX operations. HTM" and a search for this string on Google, Yahoo etc., should provide a link.

NEW MEMBERS

| | | | | | |
|------|--------|------------|------|--------|-------|
| 8990 | MW0CHZ | Dafydd | 8992 | 2E0AVK | Roy |
| 8993 | G3MNS | Ian | 8994 | EI4JD | Mark |
| 8995 | M3JRI | John | 8996 | G3MYZ | Peter |
| 8997 | G4PRL | Roy | 8998 | 9V1VV | John |
| 8999 | F5DEL | JeanPierre | 9800 | GM4GZQ | John |
| 9801 | SWL5 | Andrew | 9802 | M3PBZ | Rat |
| 9803 | 2E0IFJ | Anthony | | | |

Please note that 8990 is a replacement from last month. Note also that from 8999 we leapfrogged to the 9800 series. It will not be too long before I will have to change the space allocations for numbers to 5 digits. Heck! I never dreamed this would happen but then again, CW is a much more popular mode than some would like us to believe.

FINALE

Change of Call

Please note that M5AFS is now M0GYM. Guess we don't have too many QRX for the test!

Photos

Managed (finally) to download a .JPG attachment from 9A land but insufficient space this month. JPG files are OK as long as the original is good. Please remember that any shortcomings in the original photograph is accentuated by any compression processes. As a guide, I tend to scan photographs with a resolution of 600dpi since this resolution is used for the plates.

Spoof warnings

T'was over 6 months ago that I received one advising that I delete a file (jdbgmgr.exe) completely. I played safe and moved it to a floppy. Next day the truth emerged so curing the problem was easy.



US SPRINTS

Must hold up my hands. Never was quite sure what these were and pictured a grassed track with hams clutching their rigs and heading for a finishing tape. However, there are quite a few of them which I had thought were strictly domestic. To dispel any suspicions that I am partisan, I will keep you up to speed when information comes to hand since Nancy and the US gang appear anxious that join in the fun.

OTHER MATTERS

The only paperwork apart from George (above) to note this month was from our new SWL Anthony who spent his early years watching his father repair old bottle bound receivers. SWL for many years until the web claimed his affections and the old FRG7 was donated to a local youngster. It was Jack Wagoners (WB8FSV) website - www.netwalk.com/~fsv/cwguide.htm - that rekindled his his interest and made him wonder why he never bothered to learn Morse.

RAE is already passed but a 'B' licence shunned and hopefully a forthcoming stab at the test will find Anthony on the bands soon.

G0SGQ

George like many of us within his generation is having problems with that guy Arthur Ritis but physical and no doubt emotional support from Daughter Elaine (G0KZH) who has recently introduced him to the PC and will by now doubtless be regretting it.

MORSUM MAGNIFICAT



Samuel F.B. Morse
1791-1872

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FINALE

Sorry am a wee bit late this month people. This is principally due to the problems with that ink-jet printer but now hopefully I can get on with the business. Hi. Still have the problem of keeping up with new members, subs, QSL cards and labels etc and a missing week as happened this month slices a couple of rungs off the ladder.

10 and 15m continues to open to the US from here in Europe periodically so keep a lookout please.

73/88 and stay sober.

Geo