

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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

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OFFICES

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PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh

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CONTEST MANAGER: M5AGL

15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

COMMITTEE

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P.R.O.

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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@comcast.net>

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.freemove.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

The season is changing rapidly now and we also find the HF bands opening up with some nice DX contacts. We still have the anomaly that over the weekend whilst both 15m and 10m may be well open (JA and others to the East as well as US and the West), weekdays present us with the usual empty vista. Can all those contest operators really be lying doggo until the next numbers game comes along?

A note that G0FVS is Jim and not Peter as referred to last month in 'The Blue Uniform'. Jim must be his on-air name since he has clearly signed my copy with 'Peter'.

Please also note that until later correction, the listing contained two members with the number 09856. This more due to my lousy handwriting than sticky fingers - the correct allocations being 09855=M0KQW 09856=M0TWA. Info was otherwise correct. Despite the conditions, there is a fair amount of snail-mail traffic

flowing in both directions across the pond in the shape of small packages bearing reciprocal QSLs. Neither Chuck (M0AVW) nor his counterpart Stan (K4UK) being permitted to allow grass to grow underfoot. Having failed to find the main target (KN0WCW) during the C2C, it appeared a couple of days later signing /5 from Texas so that, together with a few more US members, it added weight to the next bundle. Hi.

The LA3 station shifted the bar up to S9+20db whilst hunting on 20m so it was quite a surprise to find that he was running a modest 5W albeit with a 3 ele yagi. Admittedly, my beam was to the US at the time and therefore somewhat in the right direction but I don't think it would have made much difference. Prior to that, VA3BWT was 589 whilst next door in Michigan a dipole yielded only 439 and his neighbour by only 50 miles or so registered 599 with a vertical. Amazing how conditions can be so discriminating.

EMAIL BOUNCERS

This is becoming a real and unnecessary chore. Advising additional DX activity following Keynote resulted in the following bouncers from UK/EU:

DK1AR, DL1AVD, DL5SE, DL7ATL, G0FDJ, G0FIP, G0FOD, G0HAU, G0STE, G0WHO, G3MYZ, G3PNF, G3VLU, G3WNI, G3WQY, G3YJY, G3ZFZ, G4KGF, G4KGG, G4UHM, G4YHN, G4YRS, G5LP, G10BEY, GM0VIT, GM4BAE, GW4BVJ, GW8NNC, M0BZG, M0BZG, M0CPP, M3CRD, M5AAQ, MW0ATG, MW0CVT, ON4LBV

They are all in alphanumeric order though some may now be corrected so pse check if your call is included. Because of the way they are reported, it took a couple of hours for me to sort the wheat from the chaff. Admittedly, some were of lapsed members since although transfer to a holding file for these is automatic via a command file, access to the address book is fraught with problems and I cannot always remember to check. If your call is included in this lot then pse email me with your correct address. Some of the failures were due to web-based ISPs such as qsl.net so if you are using these then your **REAL** address would be very much appreciated.

EUCW Fraternising CW QSO Party 2003

This year's EUCW Fraternising CW Party will be held on 15-16th November 2003. Although there is a contest element in the sense that certificates are awarded to top performers, its real purpose is to give members of EUCW clubs the opportunity to meet each other and to demonstrate that amateur Morse is still alive and well. In fun events like this it's more important to take part (and send in an entry) than to win!

Look out for members of the following EUCW clubs: AGCW-DL (Germany); Benelux-QRPC; BTC (Belgium); CFT (Belgium); CTC (Croatia); CTCW (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 (Germany); SCAG (Scandinavia); SHSC (Super High Speed Club); SP-CWC (Poland); UCWC (C.I.S.);

UFT (France); U-QRQC (Ukraine); VHSC (Very High Speed Club); YL-CW-GP (Germany); 3A-CW-G (Monaco); 9ACWG (Croatia) and work them as follows:

Dates, Times, and Frequencies

15 Nov 1500-1700 UTC 7010-7030 & 14020-14050 kHz
 1800-2000 UTC 7010-7030 & 3520-3550 kHz
 16 Nov 0700-0900 UTC 7010-7030 & 3520-3550 kHz
 1000-1200 UTC 7010-7030 & 14020-14050 kHz

Classes

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

B - Members of EUCW clubs using QRP (up to 10w input or 5w output).

C - Non-members of EUCW clubs using any power.

D - Shortwave listeners.

Exchanges:

Class A & B, RST/QTH/Name/Club/Membership number.

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

Class D, Log information from both stations.

Call: CQ EUCW TEST. Stations may be worked or logged only once a day, per band, during the contest.

Scoring: Class A/B/C - 1 point per QSO with own country, 3 points per QSO with other European country. 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, info sent, info received, and points claimed per QSO.

Summary: to include full name, call, address, total points claimed, station details, power used, and signature. Entries to be received by the EUCW Contest Manager, Guenther Nierbauer DJ2XP, Illinger Strasse 74, D-66564 Ottweiler, Germany, not later than 31st December, 2003. Certificates will be awarded to the three highest scorers in each class.

Worked EUCW Award

Additionally, this event offers a good opportunity to make contacts qualifying for the prestigious "Worked EUCW" Award, depicting the map of Europe "at the time of Samuel F.B. Morse". There are three classes of award, "Standard", for contacts made using any authorised transmission power; "QRP", for contacts made using not more than 5 watts r.f. output transmission power; and "SWL", for shortwave listeners".

Requirements of the award are confirmed CW only contacts (SWLs - CW stations heard) with 100 different stations who are members of EUCW clubs, over 3 different amateur bands with a minimum of 20 stations worked or heard in each band. The total of 100 stations worked or heard over 3 bands must include at least 3 members of six different EUCW clubs. Only contacts made on or after Morse bicentennial day, 27th April 1991, count for the award, with up to 40 stations worked or heard on that day counting for double points. Full details of the award can be obtained by sending 2 IRCs to the EUCW Award Manager, Gunther Nierbauer DJ2XP, address as above; or from G4FAL, QTHR (send s.a.e.), or e-mail g4fai@connectfree.co.uk

STRAIGHT KEY WEEK

G0MRH	140
G4NCU	138
M0DRK	135
M5ABN	117
G0GSY	112
M0BZU	85
M5AGL	77
M0AYI	51
G8XGQ	40
PA3AFF	34
OH7QR	25
M0CMQ	17
M5ENM	13

It was very nice to hear so many of you calling Fists SKW. Special thanks to Geo(G3ZQS) for using the HQ club call and to Roy(G4SSH) for using his own two calls and the three Scarboro Club calls during the week it was great to hear. Congratulations to Peter G4LHI for first place, he had 202 QSO's for his 405 points. Also many thanks to all whom have

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

Sent in the returns and check logs.

Some members were not aware that the club HQ call is worth 5pts as with the USA, Australia and New Zealand HQ calls and I have amended your logs accordingly.

The next Contest is the Xmas Challenge. This is to run from 0001 on 21st Dec to 2359 on 3rd Jan 04.

All licensed freq except the WARC bands

Scoring 3pts for club stn, 2pnts for a member and 1pnt for a non member. 1 station per country is to be used as a multiplier of 3 times against the total country overall score. Each station can only be worked once during the challenge. England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland will count as separate countries for the Challenge. Logs to be divided into countries worked with Total points for each country then a total overall score.

Logs to include Call/ Date/Time/Name/QTH/Fist No or NM/ Points.

Entries to be received by 20th Jan 04. By Post or E Mail.

The challenge is open to all members.

This challenge as with all the contests are ment to be friendly and fun not just for a rubber stamp QSO. For those who do not wish to take part in these contests it is worth remembering that it is a good time to meet other members and a good chance to add to your score for the various awards you can claim and it gives points to those taking part.

Again Very many thanks to you all for you support,

De Bob M5AGL.

SEPTEMBER LADDER RESULTS

September	Annual Totals.
Call	Points
G4LHI	449
M5ABN	265
M0AYI	262
G3VQO	260
M0RHB	214
G0MRH	214
HB9CHE	167
M5AGL	158
OH7QR	129
M0DRK	123
M5BRY	115
M0CMQ	85
G8XGQ	40
	28
	24
	17
	13
	10

Conditions again came into play with other contests on the bands and Peter G4LHI topped the score again.

In the annual totals there is close competition for the placings With Glenn M0AYI just ahead of Peter M5ABN and Les G3VQO. 73 fer now de Bob M5AGL.

K6DF BACK IN HARNESS

Our awards manager Dennis, K6DF, has been spending some time with his daughter in Germany and returned home early October. There will be a further visit some time next year as the young lady is intent upon presenting her parents with their first grandchild and on that occasion Dennis is hoping to make a quick visit to the UK when he will likely take advantage of a long standing invitation to spend a night or two aboard HMS Belfast. I am sure he will let us know in plenty of time.

CHANGES TO G0JLX ROUTINE

Previously Andy warned us about necessary changes to his QRS transmissions from his temporary QTH in Epsom. In the interim period however it appears he has been head-hunted and will be starting in a new job as of December. This means that although he will still be moving to a new temporary location, it will only be for about one month and from that point onwards, because of the location of his new employers, (a well known name in amateur HF circles) it will no longer be necessary to be away from home and he can commute daily.

This presents a different set of problems regarding the practice

CW sessions he has been running for the last few months since at home he does not have any suitable antennas. Some work needs to be done to convince his elderly neighbour that whatever antennas he erects will not fry her innards. The W3EDP will be moved shortly to the new Epsom QTH where he will continue with the transmission periods noted in previous Keynotes.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE

Whilst we in the UK are obliged to sit on our hands because the R.A. has ordained that it is going the way of no-code irrespective, over in the States the arguments still rage. Nancy amongst others has submitted a petition to the FCC which calls not only for the retention of a CW requirement but also a stiffening of the technical standards and an end to the practice of immediate re-takes for failed elements together with, among other things; the retention of the Novice CW Sub-bands

Her petition will be allocated a R.M. number together with others and be discussed hopefully in a fair and balanced way.

What can we on this side of the pond do? Well - we can sit on our muscles and do nothing and watch the erosion of the CW allocation of band space or we can take an active stance in encouraging the hitherto disinterested 'B' class licencees to look at their options and realise that without CW they are missing out on more fun than they dreamed possible.

Long time member will have known me to utter this on previous occasions so it is with apologies that I repeat: **"FISTS is NOT about FISTS. It is about MORSE"** and it is for this reason before any others that we must do what we can to sustain interest in the mode.

Ideally, there should still be facilities at all rallies and other amateur radio gatherings to set a Morse test at their preferred speed in friendly, uncompromising surroundings. There needs to be a carrot; an incentive. I would be quite happy to provide certificates to further this end but we have to have a presence be it FISTS or others. If you are planning to be present at such a venue, please ask the organisers if they would be prepared to put a room on one side for this purpose and sound out your local friends with the possibility of getting a team together. It need not be difficult. Proficiency in a group of speeds from 5 to 20 wpm is the objective and this is just plain simple reading skill. Nothing spectacular - contests or handling of pileups is for the practicing CW user - not the beginner. so we should not be preaching to the converted!

I would appreciate your thoughts and suggestions on this subject people so please give it some thinking time. I already have interest from several sources including GM3UWX who was a part of the examiners team.

C2C RESULTS

Conditions on this side of the pond were far from ideal for this event though in the wide open spaces that represents the USA, just about every band was being utilised with good results.

The following was recently published on the US reflector: *Geo, who operated #1 club station GX0IPX, commented that conditions were very poor on 15 meters. "In fact, the wheels came off after about 30 minutes and by that time, 20m was nbg due to the noise level." I'll leave it to your imagination what 'nbg' means! Hi hi*

Individual scores were reported but below are the scores resulting from club activity:

Call	Fists#	Score
W4FCR	07007	2378
K5FFF	09750	1950
W4MVZ	07600	1209
W2ZOJ	07900	1140
W4FFF	09700	1131
K7FFF	04400	1044
AC9BP	10050	1024
W8EOC	10250	1020
VA7TRS	09400	986
WS9CAN	09550	960
W9FFF	06900	850
W8NCK	08200	837
K8EY	03400	754
W4GGM	05700	725

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KD5ZBF	10375	675
W2LZ	09100	546
W4UOT	10300	484
K5TCC	07400	400
W6RO	09350	400
W4HFH	02963	352
KC7EQW	08675	320
W7PXL	08800	300
KC8VC	10150	272
NJ2BB	09262	261
W2MO	08250	172
W4GAC	07875	144
W7TU	09475	143
W1AW	10200	100
W3GR	09275	72
NK3ST	06600	36
VK4RC	09066	16
GX0IPX	00001	9

Most of you I am sure will recognise the call W1AW as that of the ARRL HQ station and as I remarked previously, it was disappointing that KN0WCW was not included in the list during the contest.

SILENT KEYS

From his widow, notice of the passing of John Terry, G0VZC on 11 Oct. No additional info.

F.C. Herod, G4DZV on 28 August. Info also from his widow with no further info.

Advice from G4KKI that Colin Bird, G0SDA died 9 October. A particularly sad note for Bill since a strong friendship was forged following Colin's request to Bill for information about his magnetic loop.

From Grant, G0UQF, I learn that Gerry, G3KPT passed away 16 October

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

GM3OAV. Doug is sans antennas for a while since his house is sprouting scaffolding during a re-roofing exercise. Tnks for the good wishes Doug. **G4UIA.** Derek is pleased to report that he is very impressed by the quality of CW from most of the members heard. He is currently more of a listener than an active brass pounder and having found a picture of his late mentor 'Pop' Seymour who was presented with an award for his efforts in Morse tuition is basking in a flood of memories. Also discovered a type 'D' still in its box, suitably mounted with an inscription from RAF Locking from way back at the Jubilee. Now that's a real find mate! **I2VRF.** Talking of happy discoveries, Giancarlo photo-copied an article complete with aeronautic chart from July 1919 of the airship R34 cataloguing the coastal stations contacted during her trans-atlantic trip of that year. The item details two transmitters carried; one a CW valve set (Service type 15) for long range work and the other a Marconi spark setup. A photograph of this airborne monster is sadly unsuitable for scanning. Now if only we had the printers proof copy. It would surely be worth a Euro or two? **GM3HEN.** Our Tony has not been living up to his suffix there being little 'cackling' during the past year. Intends to rectify this asap but in the meantime, walking, running and exploring the magnificent mountains and valleys of the Isle of Arran keeps him off street corners. The new radio shack prompted him to revive his interest in black/white photography whilst a 'very large garden' keeps his back trim.

BURKIND PASO

G3SXW who operated XT2DX during last years CQWW CW DX contest has made a video available which may be of interest to those members who worked the station. Cost £10.00 from G3SXW QTHR.

THE IRAQI CONNECTION

Nancy advises me that Steve, (AB8CR) #06130 has been serving with the WV National Guard in Iraq since April/03.

LEARNERS

How many are being taught CW in a totally wrong way? It is a

few years since I asked myself that question and it came back to me sharply following a phone call for some technical info from an established Class B user whose territory hitherto had been exclusively 2m. He was planning some HF band activity so it was perhaps excusable that I raised the subject of CW with him. Yes - he had it all written down on a sheet and he did remember a few of the characters "dot dash is A, dash dash dash is O" and it was at this point that I stopped him.

How can you possibly learn Morse if you have to stop and count the elements in each character? The blind man who reads Braille doesn't count the number of raised dots beneath his finger tips. Our current Home Secretary would be hard pressed to assimilate any information if it were so. He feels a shape - a complete entity. Morse is exactly the same since there is a 'shape' for each character. 'A' is dit dah, 'O' is dah dah dah, and so on. It was difficult to believe that no one had pointed this out to my caller.

"If I say to you 'Tango Alpha Bravo Lima Echo' you would have no difficulty in formulating the word Table and in just the same way, when I hear 'Dah Ditdah Dahditditdit Ditdahditdit Dit' I also read 'Table'. You follow?"

There was a brief pause and the answer was "Ooooh - yes". So who gave him a layout of the Morse alphabet in such an utterly unsuitable manner? but more to the point, how many other folks are attempting to make sense of a perfectly straightforward representation of the alphabet in such a way that they have to undertake two processes in order to make it possible? The first to assimilate the number/order of elements and the second to rank the result according to a table which strays so sadly from logic. Grrrrr! Now where did I put those aspirins?

PY

KEYS AND PADDLES

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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>

SPECIAL FOR ARMISTICE DAY

It arrived here via Tony, G4FAI who is no more Francophonic than myself but the email seemingly refers to CW activity from club station ON5CFT on 11 November.

THOUGHTS

There is usually a contest was running over the weekend and I am fully aware that most of you regard these as a curse rather than a blessing. It is no big secret that I do not care for them myself and under normal circumstances would find something else to do than sit at the rig. The WARC bands however offer us an avenue of escape and there is always a healthy number of like minded folks taking advantage of their contest free status.

Contests do however populate the bands with CW which I suppose is something we should be grateful for and one of our members commented that everything is the wrong way round and that the WARC bands should be reserved for contests leaving the remaining allocations free for 'normal' amateur activity. As appealing as it sounds it is unlikely to happen but 30m in particular is always worth checking. Even during contests, you will find pile-ups there as some juicy DX stations make their appearance.

A further interesting point of view was that the RA had slipped up badly with the no-code SSB activity by not recognising that 40m (at least for some time on this side of the pond) is a restricted band which will inevitably lead to downward pressure from all those ex class 'B' operators especially when the band represents the highest useable frequency. The problem here though is that even if the UK restricted 40m access to existing class 'A' licences, it is unlikely that other European countries would follow the lead.

ULTRA SHORT ANTENNA

Claude, HB9OX, sent this picture of his ultra short antenna per DL7PE.

Many of you may remember an antenna that comprised some 7 empty beer cans. This was an absolute joy to construct since it first demanded that the beer cans be emptied. This however as you can see is comprised of bean tins soldered together a rather less joyful chore with the possible consequences of flatulence.

Joking aside, it has brought a lot of interesting activities on 40m and the original article by DL7PE is to hand here in the form of a .pdf file which those of you receiving the e-keynote from Andy will readily be able to display.

Its total length can be gauged by comparing the number of cans used against the height of the said containers and for higher frequencies may be as little as 1 foot.

DL7PE put in a lot of hard thinking and experimenting before he got this one right which is explained in the .pdf file and has been used with quite good results from the balcony of a flat.

It is choke fed using the inner of coaxial cable at the choke, the screen serving as a counterpoise and the radiation resistance is calculated to be in the order of 30 ohms. DL7PE claims a complete absence of interference with television receivers located in the near vicinity which offers the same desirable qualities for which the magnetic loop is renowned.

It is hardly one-shot-and-go but once constructed, tuning and obtaining an acceptable VSWR is simply a matter of adjusting the position of the final couple of turns of the coil.

Well, it certainly struck me as being very interesting and of course, for the flat dweller could make the difference between QRT and QRV.



THE DX STUFF

Nov 2/10, Liechtenstein, HB0

Nov 9/23, Azores, CU2

Nov 14/30, St. Martin, FS

Nov 19/Dec 01, Tunisia, TS7N

Nov 22/29, Micronesia, V63

Nov 23/Dec 07, E. Kiribati, T32

Nov 25/Dec 03, Vietnam, XV2PO

Nov 26/Dec 17, Aruba, P4

Dec 15/11, Galapagos, HC8

FINALE

Almost went into a flat spin when I realised that December and Christmas was almost upon us. This being the first occasion when I have not actually printed Keynote myself, a problem was envisaged. However, the printer will still be available at the end of this month (November) so I can circulate a December Keynote but in line with normal practice, I shall be having a bit of a break over Christmas and New Year so following December, the next Keynote will be February.

To answer many queries, Ivy was released from hospital mid October. A little frailer than she was with a tendency to moan about my abysmal dress sense. The main problem faced by the staff of the residential home now is getting her back into the habit of eating! Meanwhile it is to be hoped that those of you of a 'certain' age will, like myself be arranging for the anti-flu jab. Those perishing needles seem to get larger each time and the one used last year took on the characteristics associated with horses and veterinary assistants. What am I in for this time I wonder? Now that the bands are getting back to something approaching 'normal' there should be considerably more transatlantic activity in evidence but please don't forget those of us who are rag chewers by nature and will still be looking for someone to insult on 80/40. Hi.

73/88 people. Have a super month and stay sober.

Geo