

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



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http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/ or http://www.smartgroups.com/vault/fists/
E-Mail: fist1@btinternet.com webmaster: :webmaster@asel.demon.co.uk

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW
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PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh
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CONTEST MANAGER: M0CLO
86 Coldnailhurst Ave, East Perry, CM7 5PY

COMMITTEE

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Vice Chairman G4YLB
QSL Manager M0AVW

P.R.O. G4YLB
Rally Coordinator G4PPG
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NETS

Sunday US: 0100Z on 14058
Friday: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)
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DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins
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SUBS: UK £5.00, EEC £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated.

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Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <spence5@ntlworld.com>

M0AYI 01207-283192 <m0ayi@netscapeonline.co.uk>

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).

All UK members send stamps and labels (no envelopes necessary) to the appropriate sub-manager as below:

M or 2 calls (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). M5AAQ. 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 2TJ.

All members in Wales. GW0SGG. 14 Heather Cresc, Sketty, SWANSEA, SA2 8HE

EU/DX Members: IRCs or UK Banknotes to M0AVW. US dollars to HQ. Club will provide envelopes. Any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL postage unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

Had hardly begun to settle down for a few days after having lodged the postal Keynotes with the Post Office when I watched in disbelief the live pictures from Manhattan showing the complete mayhem resulting from a carefully orchestrated terrorist attack on the WTC.

My immediate thoughts centred on the possibility that some of our members could well be directly involved in the carnage. As a result, I e-mailed Nancy asking her to include the EU chapter in any communications with such members.

She confirmed that this would be done and also attached a statement from the FCC which I re-produce below:

Along with most other federal agencies, the FCC has closed its offices and sent its employees home in the wake of apparent terrorist attacks this morning in New York City, Washington, DC, and elsewhere. The FCC has issued no emergency declaration nor other special instructions to the Amateur Radio community. The ARRL has advised amateurs to stay alert to instructions from local authorities. President George W. Bush has announced that the US military is on high alert in the US and

abroad.

US air traffic was shut down after two airliners struck the twin towers of the 110-story World Trade Center in New York City this morning (11/09/01) within a short time of each other. The building's towers partially collapsed in the wake of the collisions. An aircraft subsequently crashed into the Pentagon, and another aircraft crashed near Pittsburgh, reportedly after being hijacked. American Airlines and United Airlines both have acknowledged that they have lost planes this morning. More than 260 died in the crashes. Thousands were believed injured in New York City; there's no estimate on the number killed.

New York City-Long Island Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Carrubba, KA2D, said there has been no request for any Amateur Radio Emergency Service response at this time, although hams have been requested to assist the American Red Cross. New York City's emergency management offices are located in the World Trade Center. He said he was alerting all amateurs, especially ARES and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service personnel, to get prepared and to stand by. Carrubba said he's in the process of setting up a command channel on a linked repeater system that will cover the area from New York City into Long Island's Suffolk County. Kenneth Goetz, N2SQW, reports New York State RACES is operational on 3.993.5 and 7.248 MHz handling emergency and governmental-type traffic. He asked amateurs to avoid these frequencies.

In the Washington, DC, area, Virginia SEC Tom Gregory, N4NW, says Virginia ARES has been put on alert but has not yet been activated. "I've asked everyone to monitor the emergency frequencies and to keep a full tank of gas." He said the attack on Washington has resulted in a massive traffic jam as workers in DC attempt to leave the capital; cellular telephone communication was next-to-impossible. While no emergency nets are in operation yet, Gregory said all repeaters would be available as well as 7.243 MHz and 3.947 MHz on HF.

Virginia RACES reportedly has been activated at the state emergency operations center at Virginia State Police headquarters in Richmond as a precautionary measure.

The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth today suggested that the amateur community remain calm but ready. He invited amateurs monitoring any suspicious radio activity to contact him, and he will relay relevant information to the FCC duty team. He advised monitors to tape such radio traffic, if possible.

Should a state of war be declared, Amateur Radio would not automatically be shut down. This requirement was eliminated prior to the Gulf War.

My own feelings on this side of the pond were not so much fear that the same thing could happen here but sheer crimson anger and a desire for retribution taking precedence over the stated intention that the perpetrators be brought to justice. Improper as this may be, I offer no apologies.

On a lighter note, Ivy was discharged from hospital on that very same day. She is coherent enough but it saddens me to see her using a stick where she would otherwise be walking unaided. She is soon to attend hospital for a follow up operation and has already had extensive x-ray probes to aid the surgeon. My thanks to all those kind souls who enquired after her health and extended their good wishes.

SILENT KEY

His many friends will know by now that John, G4USS Nr. 7712, passed away (18/08/01) following a heart attack whilst attending hospital. He found much enjoyment in his tutoring and indeed he will be sorely missed by the many FISTS members who were always happy to find him on the bands.

MORSE CODE

In answer to the question posed in the last Key Note, Samuel Morse's original idea, in 1832, was for a numerical code linked to a code dictionary, and his first alphabetical code, demonstrated in 1838, was chosen arbitrarily without regard to the frequency with which particular letters occurred in everyday use.

In 1844, what today is known as American Morse was finalised, with the most common letters given the shortest symbol. When the code came to Europe (Germany) in 1847, it was considered unsuitable for German use and a new code was devised by F.C. Gerke in Hamburg. Twenty percent of Morse's original symbols were retained, although several of their meanings were changed.

In 1852, the newly formed Austro-German Telegraph Union adopted a slightly modified version of Gerke's code for communications between all countries belonging to that Union. With further slight changes over the years, the 1852 code was eventually adopted for world-wide communications, becoming the international code we know and use today.

I am currently researching and preparing an article for *Morsum Magnificat* which will cover the subject in much more detail. Tony Smith G4FAI

EUCW Fraternalising CW Party

A reminder that as FISTS is a member of the European CW Association, FISTS members are encouraged to take part in the annual EUCW Fraternalising CW Party which this year will be held on 17-18th November. Last year there was a commendable FISTS entry and we would like to see even more members take part this year. Remember, however, in a fun event like this it's more important to take part (and to send in an entry) than to win! There's a lot of scope. Look out for members of AGCW-DL (Germany); ARI (Italy); Benelux-QRPC; BTC (Belgium); CT-CWC (Portugal); EA-QRPC (Spain); EHSC (Extremely High Speed Club); FISTS; FOC (First Class Operators); G-QRP; HACWG (Hungary); HCC (Spain); HSC (High Speed Club); HTC (Switzerland); INORC (Italy); I-QRPC (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).

Details are as follows:

Dates, Times, and Frequencies

17 Nov
1500-1700 UTC 7010-7030 & 14020-14050 kHz
1800-2000 UTC 7010-7030 & 3520-3550 kHz
18 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 (less than 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, 2001. Certificates will be awarded to the three highest scorers in each class.

Tony Smith G4FAI

FISTS EUCW Representative.

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THE LADDER

A couple of objections were received in connection with the chosen operating times. Whilst at a first view it may appear to be disadvantageous to those who are not retired - having all day to rove the bands - it must be remembered that stations may be worked ONCE ONLY so what will tend to happen is that members operating during the day will perhaps run a session of an hour or two and then turn up again in the evening to pick up stragglers. Since they will have worked many of the stations in the previous session, these will be available to be picked by those who earn their crusts during the day. I have referred these (thus far two) such observations to Keith, M0CLO, for direct response. Your position on the ladder depends very much on your activity patterns and it is anticipated that evening time operating will pull in the bulk of the points. Also, the choice of a mid-week operating session is preferable since contest proliferate over most weekends. Additionally, the proposed format does not place new members who come in half way through the ladder period at a disadvantage. Please remember this is something of a trial and if there are any snags found, Keith will be looking to even things up.

MX5IPX/P

M0FLY 7 days from Sept 28, 2001 Tony is not anticipating an operating speed of greater than 15wpm. This is the first one to turn up so far so hope there will be more.

WEST MANCHESTER RALLY

I am invited to arrange for the manning of a table on 18 Nov at the Horwich Liesure Centre. If any of the 'local' members would like to offer arrange the event then pse LMK. I have the table dressing here at HQ ready for picking up. Transport is something of a problem for me and also of course the necessary domestic responsibilities.

HOLIDAY DX

Hello Geo. Just a quick note to let you know that I will be QRV from V47 [St Kitts & Nevis] and will be mainly on RSARS and FISTS QRGs on 20 metres. Assuming of course, in view of the current situation, I will be able to even get there.

I leave UK on Wed 10 October for V47 and come back on 25th. 73 Sam G4OHX

The call is confirmed as V47OHX and I guess the gang will be having some fun trying to get through the pile-up but it sure is a nice one to grab.

WWW AND @

Terry, G0TBD, suggests the use of WWW as the commonly accepted abbreviation for World Wide Web when it is needed

to send an e-mail address on air. Stands out like a sore thumb of course but then so does the somewhat reduced WW. Think it would be wise to let 'em sort it out for themselves Terry though I admit to being forced into use 'AT' on a number of occasions. There was no confusion of course but as you say, a dedicated Morse symbol would be so much better and I have encountered a few stations already indicating WW for that elusive symbol.

G3TUX

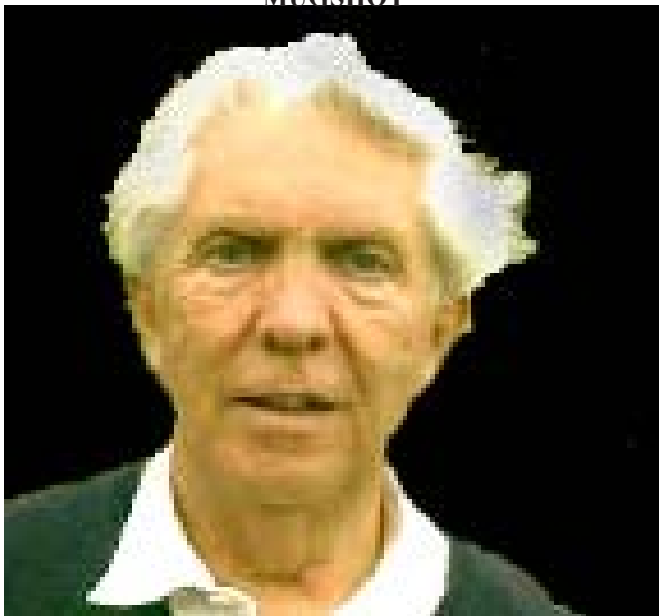
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MUGSHOT



Above is a photograph of G0WCB which arrived here via Dennis, K6DF. He was so chuffed with his Diamond certificate that he displayed it in a photograph and sent it to him. Sadly, the cert itself did not photograph well so I was unable to include it.

HELPFUL PERSONALITIES

G0IYZ was interested in the comments by GM4HYF and new ops not being able to find QRS contacts. These were backed up by a recent QSO which took place on 2m recently when an M5 station asked a G4 ticket holder for a QRS QSO on 80m. The G4 was heard to reply in the negative like "No can do. I have got the Keyer set up just how I like it and I don't want to muck it up". The M5 questioned this and why he could not slow it down the reply being "When you are used to 20wpm you can't just slow down to kiddies speeds"

Although he was mobile, Chris broke into the QSO and after expressing his disgust to the G4 station, advised the M5 to search around the FISTS frequency. He also passed on his phone number in case there was no takeup but sadly nothing has thus far been heard from him.

Chris comments: "It begs the question is whether experienced ops won't slow down or is it that they can't slow down? Have rigs and keyers got so complex that once they're set up they're left alone for fear of having to refer to the manual in order to alter the appropriate controls? I wonder!"

E-MAIL STUFF

From Andy, G0JLX - your webmaster - an answer to something that puzzled me when reported by digital keynote downloaders. Why does the unzipped file carry two extensions .PDF.DAT. Its

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

done as a 'security' measure *The idea is to help prevent the spread of virii via email which are frankly a pain in the whatsit. Save the attachment somewhere (C:\download is good) and then simply rename the file to what it should be (KN*.PDF) scan it for bugs, then move it to where ever you want to keep it. Andy also submits some hints on security:*

Outlook is a perfectly OK email handler, and yes, it does download attachments to email - the issue is over the saving of the attachment. Many of our readers with this facility may not be very computer literate and even fewer will have set up a special 'download' area where all the files they download, either from the internet proper or attachments, are put prior to bug-scanning.

Most viruses (virii more correctly) are spread by activating (clicking on) an infected executable program. However, some more recent ones can be spread simply by opening the email in which they are contained. Unfortunately, Outlook has a thing called 'preview mode' where it lets you 'see' the contents of the email before it is fully opened. This preview is sufficient to let the virus in - the email is effectively opened and wallop - you are infected. Sometimes unknowingly. These same virii typically propagate by sending themselves to every single address in the Outlook address book. The other fateful trick is to double click on the paper clip which opens the attachment from within the email - ignore advice from me [Geo].

Some virii are destructive, and can attach themselves to the end of executable programs such as .exe or .com or .dll and then systematically slow down your machine or cause malfunctions or simply format your hard disk.

There are literally thousands of virii out in the wild and the only way of dealing with them is to be totally aware of them. Some people are now fitting their home PC's with 'firewall software' previously only used by bigger companies with networks to protect.

Absolutely everybody should have anti-viral (AV) software fitted, running in the background to check if there are any major problems. And it's no good fitting AV software and then forgetting about it. It needs to be the type you update regularly - weekly or even more frequently. I purchased mine a couple of years ago for 30 GBP and it is updated 2 or 3 times a week - so the chances of my becoming infected are severely reduced. BUT: Every single file that is downloaded, every single disk that has been in contact with another machine, is scanned before it is used.

Many offices use the 'sheep dip' approach where one standalone machine is equipped with nothing but AV software and every disk that's bought into the office MUST pass through the sheep dip.

Anybody becoming infected with a virus should do several things:

1. Don't panic.
2. Boot your machine from a KNOWN CLEAN disk.
3. Use your AV software to determine if the virus can be cleaned out.
4. Reload whatever bit of software was infected from original disks.
5. When you are back on line, notify everybody of the virus name/type and when you think you were infected.
6. Remember, if you back up regularly, an infection will cause minimal damage even if you have to totally scrub your machine down.
7. If you have not got it backed up when you discover you are infected, its probably too late as you might just be backing up a virus too!

WEBMASTER ADDRESS

Please note the preferred address for Andy, G0JLX which now appears on the banner. Separates FISTS and works tfc.

As was mentioned before, members accepting Keynote via e-mail are of considerable value to us. They help to maintain the funds in line with inflation and - more importantly - enable me to hold subs to the level they were during the 1980's. I am sure you will appreciate though that even if ALL members were so, we still need funds to provide the running costs - only thing is that the funds would be more stable and tend to increase above the inflation level.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G8NT. Got a classy h/b QSL card from Dick who has gone to

OCTOBER 2001

PAGE 3

town with a scanner and an ink-jet printer with glossy card. Gives two mugshots of this OT one 1937 and the other 2001. Very smart mate. **G3GUR**. John's QSL card boasts a racy type convertible with the number plate reading G3GUR which of course is not to be taken seriously but more important (at least to John) is himself and Cassie. Sadly, John recently lost this beautiful Sheltie and yes... I know how you feel! Sorry the image was too small to scan. **G3OEP**. We mentioned in a previous news letter about early WWII kit and Dave has a Torn E.B. receiver (1943) taken from a U-Boat. Furthermore, he has the circuit diagram. At one time, he had another EB with burned out bottles which were replaced with IT4s but regretfully, the performance was 'useless'. Now were they always thus I wonder - suspect they could well have been. **DL1CC**. Have a QSL here from Wolf showing a gaggle of Israeli amateurs from his operations in Tel Aviv as 4X85E/4X85EUK further to his enthusiastic support of Esperanto. Wolf also distributes cards as DL0EKO and DF0ESP (again, images too small for successful scanning - sorry). **G3MCK**. Gerald is also reluctant to use QSD and instead adopts QCM from Morsum Magnificat which does not appear in the popular listings of Q codes. **G0CEK**. A welcome return to Fred whose previous removal from the list was due to ill health. He sold his HF gear and the 'beloved AR88D' and after surviving a heart attack in Sunderland Hospital, was fortunate to receive from a G6 friend an IC725. The G5RV is back aloft and the code is coming up to speed. **G4IST**. Now then Bill, your friend Arthur Ritis is no stranger to many of us but I am sure that if you take things slowly, you will continue to derive enjoyment from the mode. Morse is set for a come-back says Bill as the world seemingly plunges into anarchy - even if it is only with a heliograph. Hi. **G3CSC**. Sam makes good use of the NCDXF/IARU beacon, monitoring it whilst doing other things and has recently been drawn to flea power - 5w via a FT817. Doesn't give me a date but hopes to be QRV from Dieppe in October. **M0APB**. Ken is yet another to be mesmerised by the swinging lamps of late with the INT/IMI subject. **G4KKI**. Our Bill has forsaken his Century21 for a TS530S and the G5RV/2 which he claims is the loudest antenna in the NorthWest is still clawing in W, VK and etc. Can't be had! Also hoping to complete a Mag Loop for 80m but is still shy of the 500pf W/S capacitor. These things were never really widely available Bill but these days they are getting as rare as rocking horse droppings.

Some of our correspondents have recently decided that old Geo's grey matter needs a bit of exercise. Wouldn't argue with that but it does tend to slow things down somewhat when I get a detailed letter of some subject or other with no indication of the originator - no name, no callsign and perhaps the merest hint of an address from the postmark. Come back Conan Doyle.. we need your famous creation!

NEW MEMBERS

8327	MW0COF Lynda	8328	9A5FM Zack
8329	9A2HF Franc	8230	G3ROC Rex
8331	G4WUM Frank	8332	G0CYO Graham
8333	M5DAP Dave	8334	M1ETU Hugh
8335	GW4OFQ Roger		

I am happy to acknowledge a donation of £10.00 from the club station, 9A0CW in addition to the two new 9A members noted above.

Doubtless we will be seeing some callsign changes for many of the G5 members following the recent modifications made by the RA.

G4ZPY

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ODDS 'N ENDS

So, there I was on 15m where the fierce racket of 20m became a subdued whisper in the background. Conditions were a long way from perfect but they were acceptable. A handful of previously un-worked members had found their way into the log and I was able to create a very comfortable listening environment in the phones with the aid of the out-board DSP, the in-built DSP of the FT1000mp, shift, bandpass and notch controls. The beam was aimed at N. America and all was well with the world until the eardrums were assailed by a YU station (off the beam member) reading some 60db over S9 on the strip. I received 599 as expected but what threw me was the report that the guy was using 5 watts to a simple dipole. Perhaps some technos in our midst can explain why this sort of thing happens occasionally because it certainly has me puzzled.

Periodically, Suzy explodes. I mean like one day she looks tolerably well trimmed and the next, there are clumps of hair sticking out all over the place. The services of Sally (the local dog trimmer) are sought and she will turn up early morning and return a slimmed down version of Suzy early the same evening. Last month however was different. It was close to 1800 by the time Sally turned up and all day the log had been filling up with the results of some very nice rag chews. She opened the door as previously agreed and an excited Suzy flew into the shack like a bullet, jumped onto my lap and did a little dance all over the computer keyboard. I still have the QSLs to remind me of the stations worked but exactly what those diminutive paws did to the programme I have no idea. Suffice it to say that instead of the anticipated 25K plus entries in the database, there remained just 3. Good job I take regular backups but I still lost 2 days.

Bugs Bugs Bugs!

Couple of friends and I have "founded" BUG. That's the Bug User Group (Uli, DF5DW came up with that great name). We're a bunch of folks who do not only collect bugs but like to put them back on the air where they belong. We meet every 10th, 20th and 30th of the month on either 3547 or 7017 kHz, +- QRM and time permitting of course. The time is 20:00 CEST/CET or 18:00/19:00 UTC. We don't have a president or officers, no numbers, no membership fees - nothing of the kind. And that's to remain so. Anyone who wants to put his old bug back on the air or just feels like giving it a try is welcome. Simply turn up and join the fun.

73 de Thomas, DL1CQ - FISTS #6402, CC #1036
AGCW-DL #2943 <http://www.qsl.net/dl4obn>

FINALE

That's your lot again for this month people. I am sure I do not have to ask you to spare a thought for the victims of the WTC but if you do know or hear of any FISTS connection the please do let me know and I will publish the details next month.

If the band conditions continue their trend towards improvement there should be lots of club activity on our preferred frequencies. Remember that you activity will encourage others to join in with this great mode.

73/88, stay sober and may the Morse be with you!