

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.fistsdownunder.morsekeys.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: GM4ELV

1 Micklehouse Rd, Springhill, G69 6TG.

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>
written logs to HQ.

SUBS: e-mail Keypote £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** £2.50 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

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, BARNSELEY, 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, WESTBROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

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

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 post-age unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

Well, we finally got a taste of summer and although the HF bands were far from reliable, 20M started to open up late evenings and early mornings enabling quite a number of new US members to work HQ for the first time. I activated MX5IPX for a short period but I have a sneaking feeling that it was not recognised as readily as GX0IPX so the results were somewhat disappointing.

Mention of "ZUT" brought a telephone call from Bob, G0ADE, who recalls joining the coastguard club whilst in Naples many many yonks ago and seemingly it was recognised as the "ZUT Club". There are very few these days who are acquainted with the "Z" codes and G3ZQS is not one of 'em but if you hear a bunch of gas-bags a.m. on 80 or 40 steaming along at 30wpm plus, you are also likely to hear the odd "Z" from them. Hi.

The latest fabric patches being circulated in the US feature a key which happily reduces the the suspicion that FISTS is some sort of pugilistic organisation. We in Europe I fear are rather stuck with the original patches which I brought back from Dayton a few years ago but they serve the purpose.

David, G3ZPF, is prominent amongst a small group who certainly have the best interests of CW at heart; asking me to encourage you all to look out for those shy M5 calls. A periodic check on the LF bands would be appreciated. I say 'shy' because most of the 5wpm guys tend to be extremely reluctant even if the interest is there. 80M is the ideal band of course because you can always take 'em somewhere out of the way without the fear of gluing up an otherwise attractive piece of band space but in any case if they are putting out a call then they are deserving of encouragement.

CENTENARY PRIZE

Derek (G3ZDD) found himself in Radcom last month having won a prize in the Marconi Centenary Contest.

There were 50 books on offer and 50 £2.00 coins and it was one of the former which came Dereks' way. This is a copy of Marconi's Atlantic Leap signed by one of the directors of Marconi PLC.

Well done Derek. He exceeded the requirement for working a VE station along with others by the 12 VEs he listed.

I recall commenting in a return email that you could buy nothing with a book whilst a £2.00 coin (up here in the hick country at least) would buy you a pint but seemingly all the coins were destined for VE.

OPTICAL PADDLES

We have had quite a bit of input concerning these. There is little doubt that because they work by the simple process of either interrupting or permitting the passage of light from an emitter to a receptor, they can be extremely light to the touch and smooth in action. Won't appeal to everyone of course. Most of you iambic operators like myself like to 'feel' something. G0EML for instance comments:

"Yes I have to confess that I was indeed using an optical twin paddle that I do use from time to time along with my small collection of about 20 Keys and paddles and two signalling lamps, But I must confess as yet Have not had any replies from my calls with the lamps.

The optical paddles are very well made by hand in Japan and can be purchased via the USA From Milestone Technologies they can be find on the web by typing in a search engine, (GHD paddles Morse Express.)

I have tried the entire top named paddles and for me GHD paddles are by far the best in quality, feel, and excellent workmanship.

GHD do optical paddles, Bugs both standard and optical, And also mechanical paddles single and twin along with the standard straight Key".

We also have info from ZS1AN who adds the note "still happy with my bencher" who did a little research and came up with the following information.

"Optical paddles" use optical sensing, instead of the normal electrical contacts, to determine when the key (or paddle) is closed. The only manufacturer using this technology is GHD in Japan, their web site is

<http://www2s.biglobe.ne.jp/~ghdkey/flame.htm>,

who claim that this method gives the paddles a particularly

"soft touch". There are some English pages on the site but the grammar and spelling are quite original. Alternatively see the US distributor's site,

<http://www.MorseX.com/ghd/index.htm>.

There are also a number of reviews on the eham.net site - see <http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/170>. All the reviewers give them good reports and appear to confirm the manufacturer's claims of a particularly soft touch.

JAWS!

My thanks to David, G3ZPF, for this:

Although this looks like a picture taken from a Hollywood movie, it is in fact a real photo, taken near the South African coast during a military exercise by the British Navy. There are some days it is just not worth getting out of bed let alone going to work.



THE IN BOX

M0SOP

Hugh got himself a copy of The Art and Skill of Radio Telegraphy by downloading it from the internet and printing it down to an A5 booklet. Cost him £1.50 to have it comb bound. Site is: <http://www.qsl.net/n0hff.htm>. Currently labouring with 10wpm Hugh wishes he had got a copy before he started learning Morse. As Fitter/elec Engineer in the RAF, he spent most of his life lecturing physics, mathematics and science but never lost his interest in Radio.

Took up electronics again five years ago as a hobby, when he retired at 65, after having been away from it for about 35 years, just before transistors became generally available.

Built a Direct Conversion 80m and 160m Rx from a magazine and started to listen to SSB and CW and an awful lot of noise! In 1999 a friend told him about the RAE Exam, and found that there was an evening course locally which led to his first call sign M1ETU. Although the Morse test had always seemed an insurmountable obstacle, enter G3GUR who introduced him to FISTS and I guess eased his passage to the current call.

G3ZPF

As mentioned earlier, David encourages you all to check the LF bands especially during the evenings for M5 calls. His claim to fame is stumping around the office looking for his spectacles until someone finally asked what he was looking for. Having explained, the response was "would they be the ones you're wearing?"

G4AUX

An item (I suspect from a packet circuit) from Mike enlightens re. the age old question about "LID".

Originally, early landline telegraphers coined the term. It was used as a term of derision, and applied to inept operators, some of whom placed the lid of a tobacco can on their sounders, which had the effect of amplifying and adding a "ring" to the clacking of the sounder.

JOHN BLAKE

SWL-John-9054 now has the call VK6JRB. My thanks to Ralph, ZL2AOH for the info.

F5NQL

Maurice refers us to the K1USN web page where you will find a list of Museum Ships and operating frequencies <http://www.qsl.net/k1usn/event.html>

BUCKMASTER CD

Ralph, ZL2AOH, contacted Buckmaster Publishing since he had heard whispers that the 'Flying Horse Call Book CD was scheduled to be terminated. He received a reply:

We are planning to expand and continually improve our product both on the CD and the Internet.

We have recently added a FISTS membership number field in our callsign records.

Jack, NIBIC President Buckmaster Publishing.

Thankyou for that Ralph and I am sure members will be quite chuffed to discover they can cross refer FISTS info.

Ralph and the Quartz Hill gang also had a fine writeup in the Dominion Post giving a brief history of the site.

The old Radio New Zealand receiving station used to be responsible for picking up (and presumably relaying) broadcasts from the BBC but with the coming of satellite comms, became redundant and is now leased to the club by the current owners of the site. ZL1ZAE is pictured on his way up to the top of a 42M mast to do a little repair work.

Sadly the article appears to have been faxed rather than scanned so the photographs are not reproducible.

SILENT KEY

It is with much sadness that I have to inform you that my son-in-law, Bill Chandler G0VBH # 2252, went Silent Key on Tuesday 6th August. Bill loved his amateur radio, especially cw and was also a member of the RSARS.

Together with Wendy, G0VBG, they were very active from the Oxfordshire area.

Peter G4LHI # 2219

ACTIVITY ON 60M

Maurice, F5NQL, relayed info derived from the RSGB concerning limited amateur activity of 5 MHz.

The so-called "Fivemegs Experiment" in the United Kingdom got off to an enthusiastic start in early August. Several amateur stations wasted no time in obtaining the required Notice of Variance—or NoV—to operate as part of the experiment to investigate band propagation. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) announced in July that the Radiocommunications Agency (RA) and the UK's Ministry of Defence have granted permission to allocate five frequencies in the range 5250 kHz to 5450 kHz.

"We now have over 200 Full Class A license holders authorized to operate on the five spot frequencies," said RSGB Spectrum Director Gordon Adams, G3LEQ, who is directing the experiment. Frequencies available in the UK are 5260, 5280, 5290, 5400 and 5405 kHz. Gordon says 5400 kHz is serving as a calling channel, but UK stations have been looking for US experimental activity on 5260 kHz. Activity in the UK has been on upper sideband.

Maurice points out that in France, the frequencies mentioned are thus far SWL only.

Maurice also mentions that K4BAI, John, FISTS 2150, will be on as 8P9Z December 10-17 in the ARRL 10M contest, mixed mode category, high power if an amp is available. Outside the contest, John will use the callsign 8P9HT, 160-6M CW and SSB. QSL both via K4BAI. Early days of course but since I confess the memory if not the brain of the Pooh bear perhaps a note in your diaries would not come amiss

FROM THE WEBMASTER

As many of you will know, Andy (G0JLX) has been having untold problems attempting to shunt the Keynote via QSL.NET. He has been in touch with the manager and although attempts have been made to set up filters to permit Andy's header to be routed round their 'spam' trap they were largely unsuccessful. "I thought you had better know about the problems QSL.net seem to be suffering !

On a totally unrelated subject to FISTS, I happened to send an email to an amateur with a QSL.net address. And it bounced and bounced and bounced on every single retry. Even an email of complaint to the webmaster bounced !

Then I tried the executive address of the owner (courtesy the problems we FISTS had) and even THAT bounced....

So, official recommendation - DO NOT USE QSL.net. I will require proper email addresses for all members currently holding QSL.net addresses ASAP". Andy, G0JLX.

Apart from this irritating problem, e-keynote is working fine. It is fast and trouble free. Well done Andy.

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

A WORD OF WARNING

"Make sure you tell all you friends to be doubly careful" said the constable; so I am.

I was preparing my evening meal when the doorbell rang and found a teen-age Neanderthal burbling on about my garden wall. *'Fer heavens' sake, show me what you are on about!* He took me round the side of the house to my garden wall and continued to the trees beyond it. Grumpy as ever, I pointed out that this was the extent of my property, turned about and retraced my steps where I discovered some scruffy youth on the doorstep with the door open. Furthermore Suzy was on the pavement looking for me and, having a rather short fuse I yelled *"*#!@!* - OUT!"* at which he moved with some alacrity followed by another kid who had actually been in the house. The trio headed up the road at some pace as I re-entered the house and continued preparing my evening meal. It was only after I had dined that the penny dropped and I made a quick check of the secret spot where a significant amount of cash (including US green stamps) were were living but all was intact.

I phoned the local nick and they had had no similar reports though a little while later they rang back to warn me that a constable was on his way up to seek information since the spotty trio had 'done' an old lady out of £80.00 (posing as water board employees) about half an hour after trying it on me. Sadly I have a very poor visual memory so my descriptions were vague and any endeavour on my part to identify them would be unsafe. It could well be that the diminutive Suzy created sufficient racket to put the third member off for the short time that it took me to return but whatever, be careful especially if you are predominantly alone.

Coincidentally, the following week, I was called upon by a roofing contractor who had spotted problems whilst repairing a neighbours' roof. This as it happened was perfectly genuine but before accompanying him to view the displaced coping, I pointedly slipped the Yale type lock and firmly shut the door. You just can't be too careful!

GM4BAE

For the first time in three years I found Gerry on 40m and knowing the problems he has by the need to rise at something like 5:00 a.m. to make a 100 plus mile round trip for hospital treatment 3 days a week, I was gratified to learn that he is shortly to receive a dialysis machine which his wife would be trained to operate. This roll-your-own treatment will allow Gerry to spend much more time on the air but - more importantly - will relieve him of the those tedious trips.

THAT MENTAL TICKER TAPE

Sometimes things happen in small lumps. This month was just one of those cases when I had no less than three references to reading without the aid of a pencil. Let me say from the start that it **will** happen. Usually when students reach a reasonable level of competence at moderate speeds, they find themselves reading in the head especially the smaller common words. This leads to the situation where you read far faster than you can physically write and you begin to jot down an odd word here and there to remind yourself of the path of the subjects covered in a QSO. You can hasten this state by discarding the pen and just LISTENING to other QSOs. It won't take much practice believe me before you find yourself able to take on a live QSO and cease to worry about where you last saw the pen. Many people have tried to anticipate just when this happens but this is not a one-size-fits-all happening so talk of competence at a given speed is more

smoke than substance. Only wish it were not so but we all start off on the wrong rail as it were by writing everything down character by character before we really learn to 'hear' the shape of them. The non-written CW exam is not such a bad idea! Let's face it, everyone can transcribe the phonetic equivalent of a short phrase without writing it and converting the sound 'shapes' of those same characters as Morse symbols is no less difficult.

C2C

FISTS - 2002 Coast to Coast Event Rules and Station Guidelines

Remember! You don't have to be a FISTS member to participate! Non-members can use club points (3 points per club) towards FISTS awards when they join FISTS later.

All Participants:

1. Mode: CW Only.
2. Contest dates --- Starts Friday September 20th at 2000 UTC, ends Saturday, the 21st at 1600 UTC (1:00 PM Friday to 9:00 AM Saturday, PDT).

Clubs will operate to their own schedules. They are not required to be on the air the entire 20 hours of the event.

3. Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. We encourage Clubs to use the Novice segments also. No WARC bands.

Clubs will call near regular FISTS frequencies.

New this year! You receive one award certificate credit for each club worked and you receive one bonus point for each additional QSO with a club on a different band (only one point per club per band). See the C2C Award details below for how these points count!

4. Only FISTS clubs will call. Clubs will call --- "CQ C2C"
5. Exchange --- Clubs and operators exchange the following elements:

FISTS Members and Clubs: RST, Name, State (or 2 character prefix if DX), and FISTS number. Clubs: Send only your club's FISTS number.

1. U.S. Example: 579, Stan, VA, 2934

2. DX Example: 599, Ralph, ZL, 1073

2. Non-FISTS: RST, Name, State, and Power (be sure to suffix with 'W').

1. U.S. Example: 459, Bill, OR, 50W

2. DX Example: 569, Yuri, UA, 100W

Club operators, please note this new rule: Club operators count any exchange with another club to your club and personal QSO count, including bonus multiple band points. For example, if you are operating your club call and are called by another club, both club operators count the QSO for both their club and their home calls without using their home calls in the QSO. This rule is intended to reward our club volunteer ops without the need for confusing "double-call QSOs" or separate QSOs while you are on duty.

QSLs and Awards

1. All participating Clubs will handle their own logging and QSLs. Applicants are NOT required to submit QSLs or logs to claim a C2C Certificate. Please QSL to Club contacted only (NOT to the contest organizers or FISTS HQ)!

2. All contacts with Clubs will count toward regular FISTS awards (FISTS clubs are worth 3 points each), as applicable. In addition, special Coast-to-Coast certificates will be awarded to all participants who work the following number of

Clubs (NOTE: log submittal is NOT required):

A minimum of 5 Clubs ---- Bronze Certificate

For contact of 10 Clubs ---- Silver Certificate

For contact of 15 Clubs ---- Gold Certificate

For contact of 20 Clubs ---- Platinum Certificate

New Award Opportunity: Receive a special total points endorsement on your certificate for working the C2C clubs on different bands! You receive one point for each club every time you work it, once per band.

Example: you worked 9 clubs just once on any bands, but also worked K7FFF on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters.

You achieved the Silver Certificate (for having worked 10 clubs total) plus 4 extra points for the additional K7FFF QSOs on the other 4 bands for a total point count of $10 + 4 = 14$.

Note that your certificate level is determined by the total number of clubs contacted, not the total points attained.

The highest ten point scores will earn those entrants a PVP (potentially valuable prize, to be determined later) awarded by FISTS Northwest, K7FFF! Point totals will be reported in the

Keynote for informational purposes only after the event.
All FISTS club stations including UK, EU etc are encouraged to be active for this event

JULY LADDER

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|--------------|------|
| July scores | | Yearly total | |
| G0SCP | 267 | G0SCP | 1399 |
| G4LHI | 158 | G4LHI | 1357 |
| M5AGL | 59 | M5ABN | 476 |
| OH7QR | 11 | GW0SGG | 180 |
| | | G3VQO | 145 |
| | | M5AGL | 144 |
| | | M0DRK | 52 |
| | | G0MRH | 49 |
| | | OH7QR | 44 |

As you can see, we only had 4 submissions this month when M5AGL improved his yearly but failed by a whisker to place himself one rung up.

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>

NEW MEMBERS

| | | | | | |
|------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|
| 8939 | G4YSQ | Terry | 8940 | GW3KJN | Ian |
| 8941 | GD4EIP | Col | 8942 | G4AOB | Mal |
| 8943 | MD3LEG | Hugo | 8944 | M5RAR | Ray |
| 8945 | M0HOP | John | 8946 | M0TLT | Trevor |
| 8947 | M3GBT | Graham | 7847 | NW3EBS | Ted |

Pse note that G4YSQ is a previous member but had mislaid all certs etc. At the time it was more expedient to issue a new number but no sooner had this been done than members of both NZ and the US came up with his original number. Grrrrr! For some years now I have been placing full details of lapsed members into a temporary holding file (a database table of the same structure as FISTS Members) having failed to recognise the potential advantages earlier but Terry was from an era which predated this. Also worth noting is MD3LEG. Was this callsign selected in advance I wonder? Considering the three legged emblem of the Isle of Man it is most appropriate!

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

Insufficient input to include this last month but quite a few items this time. **G4GUA**. John (who uses optical paddles) gives me the source as Morse Express which will presumably be found by an internet search. Delivery was uncomplicated and completed within two weeks. He has recently moved QTH but no details of antenna possibilities. **G0GSW**. Hello again Vic. Our Rev friend has also done a Romany act and by the time you receive this letter, he will be flogging pegs and lucky heather somewhere near Worthing from whence he is anticipating being QRVASAP. **GI0BEY**. Our Scotty (after 18 months with no shack/antenna) has recently managed to make himself heard with a multi-band vertical (R-700) using QRP and has even managed a bit of DX. Asks that you all put on your best ears around the FISTS preferred segment since he may be a little difficult to copy in the face of his QRO brethren. **G0IIK**. Nigel is again available on the web. Feels like he has done a few rounds with Mike Tyson and presumably come off second best following a femoral bypass which has to be repeated later for the opposite side. Only used to hear Nigel signing /M when his dogs were taking him for a walk but reckon that situation must have changed. Maybe blowing the FISTS trumpet Nigel but since we started, the incidence of 'deaf' CQ calls appears to have diminished considerably and most ops now appreciate the need for QRL? but sadly a very small number mis-interpret and take it to

mean "I am about to call CQ on this frequency so if anyone is here then shove off". **M0ETO**. Brian has joined our happy band of wanderers also but has taken it a little further with a QSY to Sweden. For the first 3 months, he may be found with SM/M0ETO after which he will be applying for a full SM licence. Yes, your number remains unchanged (7710) whilst of course your Century award (1091) is still valid and thank you for the update on the e-mail address. Main reason for the move is his job with Engelska Skolan Jarfalla (English School) for which his residence in Stockholm is a necessity and he offers the web-site: <www.engelska.se> which provides links to Jarfalla Skolan. He would also like to express his appreciation to G3KTT, M0KKT, M0AYI, M0COX and M5ABT for their help and encouragement. **G3WP.VMT** the 'extras' Jack. Found late evening traffic on 14/18 MHz though he now has a tendency to fall asleep at the key. Made 82 QSOs during the Jubilee contest but only 4 of them in commonwealth areas. Thinks it was a mistake to allow non-commonwealth countries to participate and would have been better in the BERU format. Take care matey. **M0CMQ**. Tnks for the email address Mark and also the extract from the web site. Very comprehensive. **G3LNC**. Our Jack is still cycling and running which, when you consider he is sporting a pacemaker is no mean feat. Reports no untoward effects with the gadget when operating. Like the piccy on your QSL mate... very dramatic. **G3TSK**. 1 Jan, 1999 was a marker for Colin since on that day he made a resolution to have at least 1 QSO per day. Even went to acquiring a big reserve prior to moving QTH just to cover for 'silent' days. **M0SOP**. Hugh (ex M1ETU) got a little confused. The date you see on the Keynote label is the date your renewal is due so tnks for an early renewal and yes - understood about your preference for the snail-mail version of the news letter.

INFO REQUIRED

ON7OP would like info on this piece of ex-US military kit (which he places to 1940) particularly schematic and psu details.



FINALE

Well that's another month consigned to history. The days are noticeably shortening and with them I hope, doing the opposite, will be the band conditions. Mind you we really cannot grumble because there have been plenty of openings but by the end of August, we will be approaching that happy state when we start thinking of more substantial clothing and the HF bands begin to open during daylight hours. In the meantime, if Suzy will only stop yapping at me whenever I don't the cans, there will be yet more members found.

Have fun people and lets have a few more of you challenging for the ladder and the monthly score. We can't just let LHI and SCO rule the roost can we?

73/88 es stay sober de Geo.