

International Morse Preservation Society



KEY NOTE



Founded in 1987 by the late Geo Longden, G3ZQS

Recommended calling QRGs: 1.818, 3.558, 7028, 10.118, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

SPRING EDITION 2009



Club Goals

*Further the use of CW
Encourage newcomers to use Morse Code
Engender Friendships among members*

And remember
“Accuracy Transcends Speed , Courtesy at all Times”

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“When You’ve Worked A FISTS, You’ve Worked A Friend.”

FISTS Who's Who?

Many members that I meet at rallies often comment on they have no idea of who does what and so don't know who to contact for their questions. I Hope this helps.

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If you have any comments on the content or distribution of Keynotes then I'm your man! Also if you need info about Rallies that we are attending or if you have any articles for publication.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary
John Griffin M0CDL E-mail John@fists.co.uk
35 Cottage Street,
Kingswinford DY6 7QE

If you have questions about subs due or membership applications the please contact John for help.

Activity Manager: Robert Walker M0BPT Email Activitys@fists.co.uk
125, Devereux Road,
West Bromwich., B70 6RQ.

Any comments and feedback about any of the Activities that FISTS run or information for inclusion in the contests and activities section of the newsletter can be sent to Rob.

QSL Manager: Chuck Spence M0AVW E-mail m0avw1@ntlworld.com
Contact Details:-
32 Woodford Walk
Harewood Park,
Thornaby., TS17 0LT

QSL cards and questions about the FISTS QSL Buro should be addressed to Chuck who looks after the Sub managers for different calls

News Group / Forum Manager MOBLT
Mark Waldon E-mail forum@fists.co.uk

Mark looks after the Yahoo group FISTS and can help with any problems you may have with accessing the forum or issues arising from it.

Club Sales Officer: Anne Webb Email Sales@fists.co.uk
40 Links Road, Penn ,
Wolverhampton, WV4 5RF

If you're looking for club badges, QSL cards ,car stickers etc Anne's your Man, err Woman Hi.

There are other people that help with the running of FISTS.
We have a number of QSL Sub managers that are working hard in the back-ground to keep fists alive and well.

G4's.
Mr Jim Steel - M0ZAK
6 CENTRAL AVENUE
Shepsted
LE12 9HP

G3's
Mr Grant Merrills - G0UQF
2 East Street
Darfield
Barnsley
S73 9RE

G1,G2,G5,G6,G7,G8
& Specials.GB,GX etc.
Mr Rob Walker - M0BPT
125 Devereux Road
West Bromwich
B70 6RQ

G0's
Mr Selwyn Auty
3 Rochford Cres
Boston
PE21 9AE

M0's, M5's, M3's 2E0's etc
Mr Glenn Waring - M0AYI
7 Tynedale Terrace.
Annfield Plain
Stanley
Durham
DH9 7TZ

Wales & SWL
Mrs Mandy Spence
32 Woodford Walk
Thornaby
Cleveland
TS17 0LT

EU &DX members. If you wish to receive any qsl cards from stations you have worked, could you please send postage in either UK£, US\$, or Euro to M0AVW. 73. Chuck.

Subscription Information

A number of members have contacted me to ask the amount to pay for their annual subs, and what by what methods they can make payment.

All subscriptions will be from April to April, but if your subs fall due before April 2009 your in luck. Pay by the due date but your subs will be covered upto April 2010!

Payments can be made the good old way of cash or cheque; (made payable to FISTS) and sent to The membership sec , MOC DL (address on previous page)

Or if you're feeling all modern we can take PayPal payments to subs@fists.co.uk but whatever way you pay please include your fists membership number with the payment.

Any overpayments will be considered a donation and are always very gratefully received !

Welcome to Spring

Its finally warming up a little im glad to say, It seems to have been a very long Winter this time. I have really felt down with all the dark nights and cold days, I really like to get outside and do something around the garden. This year Annes got a number of jobs for me! You may recall that i said we were considering having chickens, well now we have 4.



Top Left : Jasmine, then Violet and Lily and bottom left is Poppy. (Only Jasmine laying yet)

The coop we bought was designed for 5 birds but we feel its a little to small and so I am now building a much larger one that will be more under cover to make it warmer for next winter. I also have planted my Tomatoes and they are just coming up now.

On the job front I am still working at the school and really enjoying it. Up to Christmas I was teaching 12 hrs a week to the 6th form in computer programming , they have now taken their A level exam in ICT so I am waiting to see their results, they better pass or it looks bad on me !

The school did offer me a place on a teacher training course so I could become a fully fledged ICT teacher but with the problems at home with Chris I don't think I could give the time I would need to the course and so I have declined the offer. If a high level teaching assistance job comes up i may be interested in that. This leads me on to a request for help, I will be starting up a school radio club about the time you read this and at time of writing have no equipment for the club, if anyone has a spare ft-2000 HF rig or a VHF/UHF radio under their desk that is unwanted the club would be most grateful for it, (just joking about the ft-2000 any type of equipment would be very helpful atu, meters, psu etc) I only have my Elecraft K3 here and will take that in but i think we will have to raise some funds to buy something a little less expensive to start with asap, but if anyone does have a old rig even if it only works on a couple of HF bands that they no longer want and would consider donating it to the school club please contact me .
(01902 338973 or paul@fists.co.uk)

A number of club officials have health/personal issues at the moment and so unfortunately this edition is much shorter than normal , sorry,

Again I must ask members to put pen to paper and give me articles for the next edition as I am very short of material , again contact me at the address in the front of the mag or to paul@fists.co.uk

We lost the web site for a day in Feb and I received a number of worried emails about it, what happen was that the credit card I use for automatic renewals had been changed during the last year and so when the auto payment request was made the card was not valid, within a couple of hours payment had been made and the site was back up and running, thanks to those that let me know about the problem so fast.

"THE CODE AND I" - BY MARY - GONZA
A personal journey.
(or the ramblings of an addicted woman)

Back in the late eighties I was a G7 and like many other radio amateurs had to learn Morse Code to become a G0, and obtain a full licence.

I learnt in a group which was challenging and it was about halfway through this process (after the initial early stress) that I gradually realised I was actually starting to enjoy myself and knew I wanted to use the Code as a mode of communication. I wasn't going to join the "get it and forget it brigade" and be one of those people who, after taking the test would either throw the hated key through the window, or relegate it to the back of a shack drawer, never to see the light of day again.

I am amazed at the interest in the Code at the moment, especially as there is no longer a requirement to take a Morse test and we all know tales of the different states, both physically and mentally, that most of us got into on that occasion :- different shades of grey to puce, uncontrollable shaking, that awful feeling of nausea, and butterflies in the stomach! To name but a few.

My first live CW QSO was memorable. After a brief prearranged contact with a friend, I plucked up courage to call CQ on 144.050 and nearly fell off my chair when I was answered by Ron G4NZU, who was only the CHIEF MORSE EXAMINER in Nottingham! My understanding OM Gerald GONRA stood at the side of me shouting "breathe", "breathe", as I was nearly in a state of collapse and needed a stiff brandy afterwards to recover! (but later on, I felt I had made a small achievement and felt quite elated).

I am a second timer, passing my driving test, final nursing exam, RAE, and Morse test after two attempts, so perhaps I am a testament to "if at first you don't succeed, just try - and try again", and in the case of Morse, remembering those 3 - P's :- Patience, Practice and Perseverance.

Amateur Radio is a wonderful hobby and there are so many facets of it to be enjoyed. My preference turned out to be teaching slow Morse. I soon realised that there was more to teaching than just pulling out a book and sending a bit of Code. Apart from assessing the student's ability to learn, there is also a lot of preparation to Morse can be fun, but at one point I was teaching at four different speeds ranging from an absolute beginner, to approaching being able to have a full QRS QSO, and I nearly met myself coming backwards!

I have found it very rewarding teaching slow Morse and have made a lot of friends and hope I am putting back into the hobby the help that other Amateurs gave to me. I enjoy welcoming newcomers and helping QRS stations with sometimes faltering contacts. My "Elmer" was Ernie G0KZA who taught us both the Code and we all need an "Elmer".

I could not have spent so many hours teaching without the support of Gerald, and wonder if our lovely border collie, Cassie, knows her code yet, she often lies with her head on my feet while I am sending F2A, and is prone to join in with an unlicensed "woof" here and there. I have also been responsible for many a dinner being in the dog due to my prolonged lessons!!

During the time I sent slow Morse for the RSGB using the call sign of GB2CW, the preparation involved was amusing, as the time to begin a session approached making sure:-

The phone was off the hook.

The dog was in the garden.

The batteries were taken out of the door bell.

There was a glass of water for that tickly cough which only seemed to appear at GB2CW time!

There was a sticking plaster over Mum's mouth (bless her, she just couldn't understand why she was not allowed to talk during the broadcasts)!

Excuses

We have all heard them, and over many lessons I have been given lots of reasons for not receiving correctly. Apart from the usual boring excuse of “my pen has run out, or my pencil lead has broken! Here are just a few :-

I sneezed.

I coughed.

The cat jumped on my knee.

The dog barked.

It thundered.

I had a telephone call.

Somebody came to the door.

The XYL came in with a cup of tea.

A helicopter went overhead

A noisy motorbike went by - followed by his mates!

The ice-cream man parked outside my window.

My parrot/parakeet/budgie landed on my head and put me off,



(sometimes with the added verbal distraction of “Who’s a pretty boy then”).

Anecdotes x 3

Mark and Mary

Just after I passed my test I was working a very experienced G station on 40 mtrs. who sent impeccable Morse and after sending my name 3 times he called me Mark for the rest of the QSO. Unsure what to do, and being very respecting of the station's status I decided to end the QSO in the normal way and sent 73 and 88, whereupon there was a large pause and "88?" sent, to which I replied "yes I am a YL", what a difference a dah makes!

Moggy

On one occasion during a CW QSO I sent to the puzzled recipient "Cat brought mouse in through cat flap – sending with legs in the air"!

Crossed purposes

On another occasion PW Editor Rob Mannion G3XFD contacted me asking if I would mind if the BBC got in touch regarding sending some Morse for a docu/drama about Bletchley Park and to my alarm, teasingly suggested that I would be expected to learn to parachute jump! I was duly contacted by the BBC and told that a car would be sent for me on the day of the filming. Thinking they only wanted a shot of my hand and key I was surprised when asked what size uniform I needed, to which I replied "Hold on a minute, I'm not a dolly bird but a mature Grandmother". Needless to say I didn't get the job! A few weeks later I received a phone call jokingly asking me what I had done with the Enigma Machine which had been stolen from Bletchley Park around the time of filming.

There is such excellent software available now, there is really no need to do anything else in the way of Morse practice, but computer generated Morse is so accurate,

it can be a bit soulless and human tuition helps to get you motivated and to “set your barrow down” as my dear Mum used to say. The use of software, personal tuition and listening on the bands to as many fists as possible is a good combination.

Some programs that you may not have played around with are :-

CW PLAYER – suitable for beginners

CW GET – suitable for improvers.

MORSE RUNNER - essentially a Morse contest practice program.

G4FON – for those wishing to seriously increase their receive speed.

AUDACITY - is also useful shareware to record your Morse directly from the sidetone and listen back to it, which helps correct problems with spacing. We have all heard beautifully sent Morse in one long stream of words and abbreviations with no gaps in it, and this becomes tiresome to read. We all know the pleasure of sitting back and listening to a really good fist – simply a joy.

I collect Morse memorabilia and have 57 Keys in my small collection and like Heinz there is a variety. The smallest being a mini G4ZPY brass one, that you could lose in the palm of your hand and the largest, the NATO Naval Key in the large light blue powder coated box. The old Ed-dystone Bug key perhaps being the most fascinating. Many are old and seen better days and I often wonder when and where they were used and by whom.

After many years of using straight keys (my favourites being the brass Peter Jones/HK707) I am learning to use a twin lever key (the HCD Chevron) but it was like buying a F1 Ferrari for a novice Go-Karter.



Marys new QSL Cards showing her very nice HCD Chevron key.

It is an excellent key and I hope to do justice to it one day. Perhaps sending on a straight key for so long at slow speeds has been detrimental to my own personal advancement, and I have found it very difficult to change. A veteran CW operator advised me to send right from the start using full iambic mode B with dit and dah memory and ACS and use full break-in and to put my straight key into my museum! The former advice I gratefully took but I still love using the straight key as I see it as an important part of Amateur Radio heritage.

So now I am the student again, trying to increase my sending and receiving speed, and learning to receive in my head. I have tried to use other types of key before and failed miserably putting it down to being a cacky left hander.

Choosing Your Friends.

When first trying to crack the iambic mode, I had terrible problems (and still do at times) sending "V's", getting an extra dit, so you can imagine why I avoided one of my CW pals, DAVE GOFVV like the plague for a while!

I am very lucky that in this area that there are so many experienced CW operators that send excellent Morse and some are FOC members and it is down to the patience of my friends, especially Bob G3PJN, that I hope I am gradually improving.

The breakfast bar is set up for off air mock QSO practice using the Kent twin paddle key and the E R Tick-4 tiny CMOS keyer for when G is using the computer (which is in the shack).

The Tick-4 and the DK1WE mini twin blade key (the one that looks a bit like a pencil sharpener) along with the mini Palm Radio retractable key, can all be slipped into my handbag, so that when travelling I don't get withdrawal symptoms (SAD!!!)

So it is here that I am on my journey, tentatively approaching 25 wpm on 2 mtrs CW, which is such an excellent spring board to the HF bands, with strong local signals, no violent QSB and dare I say it no QRMARY! and trying to bear in mind that club goal – “Accuracy Transcends Speed”

I think because there is no test, and the pressure is off, that people now learn Morse because they WANT to and not because they HAVE to and this has created a whole new relaxed atmosphere in which to study.

I whole heartedly agree with the RSGB introduction of the Morse Proficiency Certificate through the affiliated clubs and I think it a shame it is not recognised by Ofcom for use with the countries that still have a Morse requirement in order to get a reciprocal licence. In this time of renewed interest in the Code and the re-introduction of GB2CW nationwide, it is CW related clubs like FISTS that unite fellow travellers along that road to hopefully every operator's dream of sending as near perfect Morse as possible. In the words of a comment on a QSL card I received recently, from a past enthusiastic contact “VIVA CW”

Watch Out

On the way to your stand at the Donnington Rally last year I slightly lost control of my buggy and nearly demolished a stall and pinned a startled onlooker to the wall, unfortunately I then remembered that I had a very large callsign badge on the back, so that as I disappeared into the distance, I was a marked woman!! However - it was great to meet Paul and the team again and have another diddle on the key.

A big thank you to everybody at FISTS, you are all doing a grand job.

If you hear me on the bands, please give me a shout, I can usually be found either working the Code or talking about it! I really enjoy CW, having a really good ragchew, or a short rubber stamp copy, at whatever speed, whether it is on the other side of the world or just down the road.

Happy pounding, paddling and squeezing!

73/88 de Mary FISTS #721
Diddley Dah Di Dah - Dit Dit

Thanks Mary, great article , it was good to hear from you again.

Now Mary as been kind enough to send me some practice audio disks for "improvers" at around 14 wpm, i have listened to them and they would be great for people looking for good well sent CW QSO's around that speed. If you would like copies send me a stamped addressed envelope or pay 50p to the paypal account of fists (sales@fists.co.uk) and I will copy them and send then on to you

Thanks again for that too Mary.

From The Membership Sec'

Hi All, The Spring is here again, doesn't time fly? Christmas was only a few weeks ago or it seems like it! Had quite a few new members join us, I just wish the bands would pick up a little, had a Note from Roy G4PRL memb' No 8997 it seems he's off to Sweden sometime in July It's alright for some! He hopes to be operating SM6/G4PRL please keep an ear out, He says he is also reactivating his Czech Call sometime in August please listen out for OK8AGK, **I've had lots of enquiries via the fists forum about Fists Subs price, the cost of subs varies depending on how you choose to receive your copy of Keynote, if you receive your copy via e-mail the price is £5 anywhere in the world, if you receive Keynote via the Post Office in the U.K the price is £6, for our overseas members the posted Keynote is £8, We have a PayPal account so if you wish to send your subs electronically you can, the address is subs@fists.co.uk We also accept Cheques drawn on a U.K Bank, and of course good old cash inc' Euros! If you would like to setup a standing order with your bank, the codes you need are here, our bank is Lloyds TSB, the account name is Fists, the sort code is 30 14 51 and the account number is 00948847, please include your Call Sign and membership number, or I won't know who the payment is from! So on to the New Members.**

14075 M6FBK Alan
14077 GOVGS Ian
14079 DJ0MBC Bob
14081 M3XZT Ken
14083 M0UFO Jim
14085 G4MJO Alan
14087 GW0NKG Mike
14089 F8FGZ Dirk
14091 GOEXD Chris

14076 G3UED Mike
14078 EB3CXQ Sergi
14080 LA3MAA Terje
14082 GSWL 7 Chip
14084 GM6JUJ Jim
14086 G4FAD Rich
14088 GSWL 8 Alan
14090 EI3IK Brian
14092 M6WOW David

Welcome to Fists, I hope to meet you on air soon, Please Call CQ Fists and have fun, Also **Please remember the 1st of April is the renewal day! If you don't renew this will be your last Keynote! We don't want to lose you so please renew!** Vy 73/88 fer nw, John MOC DL Memb'Sec'

The Bill Windle CW QSO Party

The First Class CW Operators Club has a regular QSO party celebrating the memory of our Chairman Bill Windle G8VG who steered the Club through difficult times in the 1950's and 60's.

This event takes place twice a year in May and November and FOC in 2009 is once again inviting participants from any other CW club who may be interested to join us. Over the last few years we have been joined by many non members some of whom have since joined our ranks.

The event is run on a Saturday for a 24 hour period from 0000z to 2359z on all bands excluding the WARC bands. Activity takes place around 25 KHz up from the band edges.

Non members should send as a minimum RST and name and send the total number of FOC stations worked to K5ZD@aol.com along with any comments not later than a week after each event.

This years dates are May 23rd and November 14th and FOC is actively welcoming anybody at any speed to enter the event to promote CW across the bands

Colin Turner G3VTT President FOC 200

BRASSPOUNDER

For those within FISTS who enjoy a challenge.

Welcome to the roundup of what's been happening in the events and activities planned within FISTS.

The FIST of the year award received some nominees, albeit slow with folk waiting till the last moment before casting their votes.

I'm very pleased to announce that Peter Rosamond. G4LHI Fists#2219 has been awarded the accolade of "FIST OF THE YEAR" 2008. I'm sure that you'll all join me in congratulating Peter, a very worthy recipient of this award. The reasons from members who voted for Peter was his active fist on air and his almost tenacious publicity of the society to all he met on air during 2008. I can concur with this comment as many new members have said "I Worked G4LHI who introduced me to the society" also another reason raised by members, was his devotion to the mode of CW and his regular on air Morse practice nets in his locality... Other nominees included OH7QR for his /p operation activating different grid squares during 2008, and his readiness to publicise the society. And myself! Which I must say was a pleasant surprise. Heartfelt thanks to those who thought me worthy of such an accolade!...

Lets take a look at the final results tables for 2008, namely the ladder and WARC Activity. It was an eventful closing

period, In the WARC Activity, IK2RMZ put in a last minute charge to overtake G4LHI and win the G3ZQS Trophy for 2008. Congratulations to Martin for his excellent effort. "Well done" goes to G4LHI and K4UK for second and third places respectively.

CALL	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	MULTI	G-Total	PWR
IK2RMZ	256	361	2326	147	341922	QRO
G4LHI	115	215	2296	125	287000	QRO
K4UK	139	68	1169	142	165998	QRO
G6GUN	0	29	621	51	31671	QRO
W4YE	107	52	576	47	27072	QRO
OH7QR	57	84	819	32	26208	QRO
MØDRK	26	28	357	25	8925	QRO
KA3NZR	37	10	169	34	5746	MIX
G8XGQ	24	41	247	18	4446	QRO
W4FCR ©	19	7	122	31	3782	QRO
DL1GBZ/DP6M	0	0	208	10	2080	QRO
G3ZOD	121	93	242	7	1694	QRP
2E0TEK	0	0	95	12	1140	QRO
K4ORD	3	2	45	10	450	QRP
G0XAH	0	0	33	4	132	QRO
PA3AFF	0	0	25	5	125	QRO

Congratulations go to highest placed QRP entrant was Graham G3ZOD, who did marvellously well with his indoor aerial!



Here's an image of Graham G3ZOD with his G3ZQS WARC Activity QRP award certificate for 2008.

The activity ladder too, had an eventful finish, with G4LHI and G6GUN tying for joint first place, with IK2RMZ in third place. This is, as I'm aware, the first time that we've had identical scores at the end of the year.

CALL	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
G6GUN	13	43	416
G4LHI	37	44	416
IK2RMZ	5	12	200
M0DRK	21	19	186
OH7QR	18	8	182
G8XGQ	14	17	154
M0JRQ	0	0	45
2E0TEK	0	0	37
G3ZOD	8	14	26
G0MRH	0	0	9
DL1GBZ	0	0	1

Congratulations to G6GUN and G4LHI for sharing top spot in the 2008 activity, and a worthy third place goes to IK2RMZ.

Peter G3JFS Sent a statistical overview of his operations during 2008. You may have worked Peter under his own call or when he kindly activated GXØIPX Fists #1 on occasions during 2008.

Conditions were mostly quite dreadful in 2008 and still do not shown any sign of improvement. The HF bands will get better during Feb-March and April but this will be a normal seasonal change around the Spring Equinox, rather than higher sun-spot numbers. Nothing to get too excited about but keep an ear out on the higher bands, especially 10 and 12 m where there is always the prospect of sporadic E and transequatorial propagation. In spite of conditions there was dx aplenty being worked by stations with good locations and big antennas. For example, in G3WGV's 2008 internet CW

table GM4FAM is listed as having worked 243 countries, and up to the 11th Jan 2009 the leading score for this year is 82 dxcc, worked by G3TBK. I often wonder if people leading the annual tables ever leave their shacks. For those of us with less than ideal setups it was hard going to find and then work dx stations - a case mostly of digging into the noise to find weak signals and then patiently waiting for them to peak up long enough to make a qso.

You may be interested in my 2008 results below. These are from casual operating in number swapping marathons and working some dx expeditions rather than chasing dx for annual tables. I gave that up a few years ago as it is very time wasting activity.

G3JFS Countries worked in 2008:									
1.8	3.5	7.0	10	14	18	21	24	28	ALL
48	57	87	91	113	58	69	17	49	169

Pleased to receive a statistical overview from IK2RMZ for his WARC Activity..

IK2RMZ FISTS WARC statistics for 2008

616 worked squares:

134 worked DXCC entities:

3B8 3DA 3V 4J 4L 4S 4X 5B 5H 5N 5R 5T 5X 5Z 6W 8R 9A 9G 9H 9J 9L
 9M2 9X
 A2 A4 A6 A7 AP BY CE9 CM CN CT CT3 CX D2 DL E7 EA EA6 EA8 EA9
 EI EL ER
 ES ET EU EX EY F FM FR G GD GI GJ GM GU GW HA HB HR HS HZ I IS
 J2 J3 J6
 JA JY K KL KP2 KP4 LA LU LY LZ OE OH OH0 OJ0 OK OM ON OY OZ P4
 PA PY PZ
 S5 SM SP SV SV5 SV9 T7 TA TF TG TI UA UA2 UA9 UK UN UR V3 V5 VE
 VK VP2E VP5 VP6 VQ9 VU XE XU YI YK YL YN YO YU Z2 Z3 ZC4 ZD7
 ZD8 ZL ZS

30 meters:

3B8 4J 4L 4S 4X 5B 5R 6W 9A 9H 9X A4 A7 CE9 CT CT3 DL E7 EA EA6
EA8 EI
EL ER ES ET EU EX F G GD GI GM GW HA HB I IS J2 J6 JA K LA LU LY LZ
OH
OH0 OK OM ON OY OZ PA PZ S5 SM SP SV SV5 SV9 T7 TA TF UA UA2
UA9 UK UN
UR VE VK VQ9 YI YL YO YU Z3 ZL ZS
80 DXCC entities 1025 QSOs (52%)

17 meters:

3B8 3DA 3V 4S 4X 5B 5H 5R 5T 5X 5Z 8R 9A 9G 9J 9L 9M2 A2 A6 A7
AP BY CM
CN CT CT3 CX D2 DL E7 EA EA6 EA8 EA9 EI ES ET EU EY F FM FR G GJ
GM GU
GW HA HB HR HS HZ I IS J2 J3 JA JY K KL KP2 KP4 LA LU LY LZ OE OH
OK OM
ON OZ P4 PA PY PZ S5 SM SP SV SV9 TA TG TI UA UA2 UA9 UK UN UR
V3 V5 VE
VK VP2E VP5 VP6 VQ9 VU XE XU YI YK YL YN YO YU Z2 Z3 ZC4 ZD7
ZD8 ZL
113 DXCC entities 821 QSOs (42%)

12 meters:

3B8 5N 6W 9A 9G D2 DL E7 EA ER ES EU F G GD GI GW HA HB I LA LY
LZ OH
OJ0 OK OM OZ PA S5 SM SP UA UA2 UA9 UR VQ9 YL YO Z3 ZD7
41 DXCC entities 111 QSOs (6%)

Thanks to Peter and Martin for their overview for 2008.

As I close this edition of the BP Round up, the first Exchange your age week has finished. And well received it was by a lot of the membership, pleasing to hear.

EYAW (Exchange Your Age Week) results 2009

Well, what an amazing reception the new activity for 2009 received from members!

I was so surprised to receive mails from participants before the activity had finished claiming "What a success EYAW has been" And looking at logs received for the event, I could see why these mails were appearing in my inbox! The amount of members who were active during the week was striking! If all the members who were active had sent in an entry! I would have been busy for quite some time! So, where were the logs from all our active members?.....

Send in your entry and a report on what the week's activity meant to you! This is and has been a fun event....And to answer all the requests received from those who did send in an entry....I can confirm and answer your requests that EYAW will remain in the activity calendar for 2010 and beyond.....

Already it has been mentioned that it will be as popular as SKW! Praise indeed! Thank you for your kind words for introducing the activity..And mails received saying "Can't wait for EYAW to come around again next year!"... I look forward to EYAW 2010 being received with even more enthusiasm than 2009, and look forward to receiving more entries....

Before I get onto the comments and reports received...I would like to wish a most cordial welcome to the members who had decided to enter one of our activities for the first time; again, the member numbers I've seen in logs received stretched from early numbers to very new members... I hope you'll find time to enter other activities during 2009.

Another thing that I was looking for, was, in the absence of any data, a possible centarian in someone's log! After looking at the logs, and checking, my wish was not to be realised this year.... But we can hope for the next EYAW....

The oldest and youngest members worked during EYAW?.... I can tell you that, at 94 years, fists Member Glenn, W9FFU; was the most senior member worked. (By Roy, G4PRL and Stan, K4UK...congratulations guys) The youngest member, who was very active during the week; was fists member Graham 2EØTEK at 22 years. The most senior EU member worked was Dawson, G3AHS at 88 years... Congratulations to Glenn, Dawson, and Graham for supporting the event. Who knows, we may get a centarian in a forthcoming EYAW. (Does anyone know of such an amateur still active?)

On to the members reports.
Firstly. Graham 2EØTEK who comments

Hi Robert

Very good idea, this event was great fun, amazing how many members came out this week; been nice to work some old faces again and even managed to work a club station once. Only wish I had more time or could get home from work slightly earlier hi.

73 for nw. Graham 2EØTEK

Thanks for your kind words Graham...glad you enjoyed the event.

From Stan. K4UK

Rob - MOBPT:

Attached is my log for the Exchange Your Age Week.

Unfortunately I wasn't able to participate much because we had left home on Friday, February 27 and drove to Florida so my wife could attend her High School Class Reunion in Sarasota on Monday, March 2.

Then we visited friends in Lake Alfred, FL. My friend Bernie and I played golf on Tuesday and Wednesday. We drove all the way home on Thursday.

Another friend here in Virginia had a tee time on Friday at my Golf Course, so that shot most of Friday.

As you can see by my very small log I was only on from 1912 UTC until the end at 2359 UTC on Saturday.

But I worked Glenn, W9FFU who at the age of 94 may be the oldest one in the Event. So, I may lay claim to working the oldest ham during the week - Hi! 73, Stan - K4UK

Glad you found time to get on and "Exchange some ages" Indeed you can lay claim (With FISTS EU member G4PRL) to have worked the most senior member of the week!

From Roy. G4PRL

Hello Rob,

Greetings from South Devon.

Well I have just been enjoying the "Age Week" event that you organised, it was great, just about one of the nicest fun ham radio events that I have ever taken part in.

I very much dislike "5-9, 73" contests, but this is the type of thing that ham radio should be about if you really want to enjoy the hobby, so thanks a lot Rob, great work. I could not dedicate as much time to the event as I would have liked, but as you will see I was able to get a few contacts

in most days. I found that the most common age seemed to be 73;
however the average age was nearly 71.

I also noticed that nearly all my contacts were with the south of Eng-
land and hardly anything up north and definitely no GMs at all.

As you will see that apart from one QSO on 20 mtrs all my other
QSOs on 80 mtrs were using QRP, I was using my FT817 @ 5 Watts to
a W3DZZ antenna, and as you can see all were good solid contacts.
Judging by the on air contacts this has been a very popular event and
has generated quite a lot of activity on the FISTS QRG, and so for that
reason there are a good number of members keeping their fingers
crossed that it will again be part of the calendar for next year?
So well done Rob, and many thanks. Please find my results attached
to this e-mail.

73 de Roy, G4PRL, FISTS 8997

Hello Roy. It was a pleasure to open my mailbox and find your entry
and report inside.. I've had the pleasure of meeting Roy (As I have
many other members) at the Donnington Radio show on two occa-
sions. Where we've enjoyed a lengthy chat....Thanks for your kind
words and enthusiasm for the event, and of course, congratulations
are in order for working the most senior member during the event,
along with K4UK...I hope you'll be joining the event next year...

From Derek. MØDRK

Hi Robert,

I am pleased to send you my log for Fists Exchange Your Age Week. I
expect that by now you'll have received many messages to say what
great fun it has been. Many fists

members were heard that are usually not heard on other Fists activities and that was very nice. You certainly picked a winner with this one Robert. Many thanks to all stations that I worked who gave me points. Good to work Roy in Scarborough again with club points to be earned.

Thank you for a great week, take care, see you again soon. Derek
MODRK

Always a pleasure to hear from you Derek. Again, thanks for your kind words and support, the event was certainly well received by all.

From our friend and one of the "Doyens" of the FISTS activity scene; Peter G4LHI

Hello Robert.

I attach my report & claim for the "Exchange Your Age Week". I must firstly, on behalf of all the participants of this event, congratulate you Robert for introducing it to your 2009 activities calendar & we all hope it will remain a regular event? It certainly was very popular with old & new members, I for one worked three new members (QSL cards via Fists buro in next batch tnx guys) & many older callsigns that I had not heard for years, it was reminiscent of the good old days when members were "number crunching" as dear old Geo called us when we were collecting for our Century & other Awards hi!! Incidentally, I did not hear any Century numbers exchanged, is this a dying art?? I certainly enjoyed the event & it was so nice to hear such a lot of activity from members again, I was sorry when 2359 came on Saturday, but then we did have the "Ladder" on Sunday to enjoy, those of us that were not too worn out from the week's efforts hi! I was lucky to have 138 QSO's and with 268 points for 3's, 2's & 1's total of 268 plus the total ages column of 9071 added

to this giving me a grand total of 9339 points, subject to Roberts scrutiny hi! I think the average age for my log was around 34 years old, but there were a few younger members joining in, so I'm sure their average age could be well above that with them having a ball with us "oldies" hi!

I must say very many thanks to all members & of course a few non members, that joined in & made this a wonderful event, was a great pleasure to enjoy the chats, & certainly no rubber stamp type QSO's, just what is needed by our Fists Club activities. That's all for now, see you next time & "Keep Pounding the Brass"

73/88 de Peter G4LHI & Jean

As ever Peter, thank you for your kind words, support, and enthusiasm for the event, and all the other activities in the calendar. As I've commented earlier, the event was well received and will certainly remain in the events calendar for 2010 and beyond.....

From Graham G3ZOD. Who comments;

I wasn't able to spend a lot of time on the air during the week, but it was nice to meet up with some new and old faces. Andy F6CNI deserves a special mention; although a non-member, he was nevertheless being a good sport and giving away points with his very impressive 500 milliwatts!

73 de Graham (Gra) G3ZOD FISTS #8385

Hello Graham.. It's nice to hear that 500 milliwatts was making the trip in these times of low activity. I'd noticed that F6CNI had made his way into other entrants' logs too!

A warm welcome to Daryl GØANV Who comments;
Hi Robert,
Here is my entry for the EYAW activity.
Had great fun. Worked old friends and made some new ones too.
Good all round week.
73 de Daryl. GOANV Fists nr. 2270

Good to have you on board Daryl...Thanks for your kind words.

From Erkki OH7QR

Hello Robert,

Please find attached my log. I think that the event was a great success. Most participants were on 80M which is not good band for me. But anyway I got 13 QSOs. There were some who didn't want to give their ages although I gave mine. I am too tactful and didn't ask anybody's age if he didn't give it voluntarily, Hi. 73 Erkki OH7QR

As ever Erkki. Thanks for your support. Glad you managed to meet members on air; I'm surprised that no-one migrated to 20m where they would have found you waiting patiently on 14.058. Glad you enjoyed the event...

From Peter G3JFS

Hello Robert, Welcome Back.

Attached is my log for the Exchange Your Age Activity Week. After a slow start with only 6 contacts in the first two days I had more time for operating during the rest of the week and finished up with 86 contacts in the log. Although I sent a lot of CQ calls on other bands the only members I worked were on 80 metres where I had 51 contacts with 35 different members. Many of the non-members worked were QRP stations who, as I have mentioned in previous reports, take advantage of the increase in activity just below their calling channel during our activities.

Many people commented on how much they were enjoying the activity week and I am sure that much of this was due to our own 'FISTS Casual Contesting Style' of operating that encourages 'proper' contacts rather than rubber stamp ones. Many of mine lasted for 10 – 15 minutes with a few up to 30 minutes and this trend was noticed when listening to other stations.

Overall I think the event was a big success and will become a regular fixture on the annual events calendar.

73 Peter, G3JFS Fists 8985

As ever Peter. Thanks for your concise round up of your weeks activity. G4PRL and G4LHI echo your sentiments regarding how far removed we are from the "rubber stamp QSO's" Long may it continue....

From Pol G3HAL (Who as a matter of interest, was, after G3AHS the next most senior FISTS EU member active during the activity at 87 years) who comments....

Robert

Herewith as attachment my log for the Age Week Contest. It was especially interesting because, having no Serial Nos. we had no idea how the others were doing. Hope to take part next year.

Pol Parrott G3HAL 8367

Pleased to hear that you found the activity interesting Pol. Look forward to receiving your log next year.....

And From Mike G4NCU

Hi Robert,

Attached is my log for the first exchange your age week and may I say what a great fun week it was, I do hope this event stays on the annual fists calendar. It was good to see the event well attended, and once again I met up with old friends and quite a lot of members not worked before, my only regret not being able to get on air every day.

73. Mike G4NCU Fists 6061

A pleasure to hear from you Mike. And pleased you managed to get on for the event. As you'll have seen, your thoughts have been echoed by all who sent in their logs...With the amount of members active during the event, it did make a fun weeks activity...Lets hope that the 2010 EYAW yields even more members on air and perhaps more will send a log in for scrutiny!.....

From John, 2EØJCY.

Hi Robert,

It was a very enjoyable week and I got some much needed cw practice. I met quite a few members for the first time and can't wait for the next one. So hope it becomes an annual event.

Regards

John 2EØJCY 13253

Hello John. A pleasure to receive your first ever entry in one of the society's activities, I hope you'll continue to join in whenever you find time to do so... Glad you enjoyed the event and as you'll have seen in the earlier comments, EYAW will become a regular event in the calendar.

Our final comments come from a member who you may have heard me mention before; Bryan GØGSY. Due to unusual shift patterns at work Bryan will sacrifice sleep to come on and support events during the year.

Robert.

What a wonderful event! Must be the best yet! Never heard so many FISTS on air, and some that haven't been on for a long time! This event is a must for next year! It was great fun, thanks a lot.....

Could only come on during the afternoons due to my work at night.

Take care..73. Bryan.

Thanks for your kind words Bryan. Always a pleasure to receive your entry....

All that's left for me to do is publish the results of the first EYAW... I've added in the right hand column, the average age of each member's log.

EYAW	TOTALS	2009
CALL	SCORE	AV. AGE
G4LHI*	9339	65.7
G3JFS*	5505	64.6
G3HAL*	5000	64.7
G0GSY	4567	65.9
G4NCU	3843	70.5
G0ANV	3393	70.2
2E0TEK	2625	70.8
M0DRK	2162	59.8
G4PRL	1751	70.8
2E0JCY	1600	74.1
G3ZRJ	1101	66.9
G3ZOD	916	68.5
OH7QR	736	64.9
G8XGQ	494	80.3
K4UK	372	72.6

(* Denotes award winner)

Congratulations to Peter G4LHI for an excellent winning score. Also to G3JFS, and G3HAL so closely spaced in second and third position. A mention must go to GØGSY who managed a very respectable fourth place score in spite of him arranging his sleeping requirements with the event! And the QRP operators who did a fine job!..

Thanks to all of you who came on and supported the event, worthy of a mention is Roy, G4SSH who activated many of his arsenal of call-signs from Scarborough Special Events Group to give away points to members...

To pick up on a few comments raised by participants...Reminiscent of the old days" "Our casual operating style" These are but two of the many thoughts aired by members who have been surprised by the activity.... I think that this is one of the main reasons why so many friendships are made within FISTS.... The ability of us not to take another members number for whatever award we may be collecting for and run! Another being the ability of us to help newcomers to the mode and help nurture their ability through their first steps on air! A hope that the mode will be perpetuated for a long time ahead! I'm sure Geo. would have been pleased and proud to have heard all the activity from members during the EYAW event!

Who'd have thought that, in the second half of 2008 when I sat down to look at something to replace MKW, and came up with EYAW, that it would have been received with such enthusiasm and support from you all.....

**That's all from me for this edition of the BP round up, before I go
I will remind you all of my new address;
87A Whitehall Road,
West Bromwich.
B7Ø ØHG**

The Last Word

Well its been a short edition this spring , and its rather late too, I must say that I am now out of articles for the next edition and so please consider sending me any stories, articles, reviews, photos that you may have been holding back Remember its your newsletter , I'm only here to edit it not write it .

I would be interested in hearing from members about where they see/ want the club to head over the coming years, some people have asked for us to make the club a Online only club with no paper newsletter option. While I agree it would allow us to greatly reduce the subs we would lose many members that do not have or want internet access so as long as I'm here that's not going to happen. Some people have asked for us to scrap the subs fee and make the club free for all like a few other CW clubs out there. Well again I don't think it would be fair on just the few people that help run the club to pay for all the expenses that we would still incur (web hosting, domain renewals, awards certs, membership forms etc. I feel that since we have a small fee it will discourage people that are just club name chasers from joining and members are more likely to be actively interested in what the club stands for and CW in general. I know that younger amateurs seem interested in many different aspects of "Ham" radio and its difficult to get them to use CW, anyone any thoughts on how we can encourage these youngest into the world of CW?

We will have a improved web site later this year (Its being worked on now) and it will get updated more often too, it will allow online ordering for club sales and allow members to pay for their subs on line too.

Anyway have a nice summer, its starting not to bad and I will speak to you again soon, don't forget to send in your articles ASAP,, Thanks
73 & 88 from Paul & Anne

