
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">FISTS DOWN UNDER</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Newsletter October 2013</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">Editor & QSL Manager for ZL: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX, P.O. Box 15078, Otaki 5542, New Zealand. - Tel: 06-364-6339</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Newsletter Distribution & QSL Manager for VK: Chris Thompson, VK2CTN, P O Box 65, Dickson, ACT 2602, Australia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Membership/Awards Liaison: Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH, 12c Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6011, New Zealand Tel: 0-4-473-0847. Fax: 0-4-473-0848</p> <p style="text-align: center;">QSL Manager for ZL6FF: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX at address above. QSL Manager for VK2FDU: Chris Thompson VK2CTN at address above</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Address e-mails for all persons above to: <fists-down-under@ihug.co.nz> Web site -: <www.fistsdownunder.org></p>	
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SUGGESTED FISTS CLUB CALLING FREQUENCIES

1.808 MHz (160m) – 3.528 MHz (80m) – 7.028 MHz (40m) – 10.118 MHz (30m) –
14.058 MHz (20m) – 18.085 MHz (17m) – 21.058 MHz (15m) – 24.908 MHz (12m) – 28.058 MHz (10m)

Members are reminded that the above frequencies are suggested calling frequencies. If they are busy, it is suggested that once you establish contact with a station, it may be prudent to change frequency down the band, avoiding other calling frequencies of known clubs.

SILENT KEY

We were sorry to hear of the death of **ZL2AVL-Bill Luscombe #9033** in Wanganui on 18 August 2013. Bill was a former RNZN wireless operator who retired in Waiouru where he had his last posting in HMNZS Irirangi the shore-based naval signals centre. Bill was a frequent participant in local CW contests, being the winner more than one of the FISTS Down Under Prizes in the annual NZART Straight Key Night. Bill had been in indifferent health for some time.

MEMBERS' NEWS

P29GM/VK2BZN-Graeme #14121 has returned from Papua New Guinea and is now settled in Woodville South, a suburb of Adelaide, about 8 km northwest of the city centre. We await advice of his new VK5 call sign.

Many thanks to the following members who included a donation when sending their subscriptions – **ZL2AUJ-David #9668** and **ZL1BLR-Len #9061**.

VK2JWA-John #14169 reports on activity at his club: -

Five members have expressed interest in a Morse net etc.

The Sat night net at 2000K on 3.605 MHz will be recommenced.

Frank VK2FRNK has made a DVD on learning, improving or practicing CW.

Available from Frank frankcscott@bigpond.com

Practice sessions will be at the Clubrooms on Sundays, 1100K.

John VK2JWA is reinstalling the Morse test/practice gear at the Clubrooms.

ARNSW Morse broadcast etc, http://www.arnsw.org.au/html/page_morse.htm

John also invites us to visit his web site that contains a lot of interesting radio and other stuff: -
[<http://phonetic.org.au/alphabet.htm>](http://phonetic.org.au/alphabet.htm)

VK3MI/ZL1AZE-Brian #9078 is a member of the contest committee. He sent this info about the 2013 Oceania DX Contest (OCDX) contest. (# See contest calendar below) - A new plaque is being sponsored by **Phil ZL3PAH-Phil**

#14103 for the local New Zealand NZART Branch, DX club, or contest group with the greatest number of single operator entries that each makes at least 50 valid QSOs. Brian encourages the members of all local Branches, clubs or groups to get on the air in the contest and have a go at winning the inaugural awarding of this plaque.

OTHER MEMBERS' NEWS

G4LMW-Rob #14000 <G4LMW@btconnect.com> reports that he has updated his look up tool for FISTS and SKCC, You can enter either a call or a number. Visit <<http://www.g4lmw.co.uk/CallLookup.asp>>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

These are some of the CW contest/event offerings in October 2013, most of which will be of more interest to our northern hemisphere readers. Thanks to www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html and www.fists.co.uk/activitiescalendar.htm

#Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 12 to 0800Z, Oct 13
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Oct 12 to 2400Z, Oct 13
EU Autumn Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 12
FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 12
FISTS NA Fall Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 12
FISTS EU Ladder	1400Z-1600Z, 1800-2000Z, Oct 13
UBA ON Contest, CW	0600Z-0900Z, Oct 13
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 19 to 2359Z, Oct 20
New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 19 to 0200Z, Oct 20
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 19 to 1459Z, Oct 20
Stew Perry Top band Challenge	1500Z, Oct 19 to 1500Z, Oct 20
Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 21
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 23
FISTS EU Ladder	1400Z-1600Z, 1800Z-2000Z, Oct 27

For details of the Oceania DX Contest see <<http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com/index.htm>>

HOUSEKEEPING

Here is the latest renewals list. Please check carefully whether you are listed and if so, please forward your renewal subscription. **Please let us know if you are wrongly listed, want a replacement renewal form, or generally have any queries.**

These are due by **m**, ; some are overdue: -

9053-9061-9087-9136-9139-9140-9609-9611-9613-9617-9638-9650-9655-9666-9677-9690-9694-14100-14111-14124-14132-14133-14146-14150-14152-14154-14168-

TRAWLING THE WEB

A site that will be of interest to anyone studying for amateur radio exams or learning more about electronics: <<http://www.allaboutcircuits.com/videos/index.html>>

Celebrate the First Radio Transmissions between Great Britain to New Zealand: <<http://gb2nz.com/>>

Titanic centenary: **VK3BUG-Doc #14136** (ex-VK5MGY RMS Titanic special CW call sign activation May 2011-Apr 2012) recommends this interesting site: <<http://www.eht.com/oldradio/arri/2012-04/Titanic%20Rescue.html>>

"Why put up an antenna when they're growing all around you?"- <http://w5jgv.com/tree_antenna/>

REGULAR FISTS ACTIVITIES DOWN UNDER

Our members have bemoaned the paucity of FISTS members on the air. Indifferent propagation conditions are often cited as the reason.

Our fellow chapters in North America, Europe and East Asia have a range of activities and nets that seem to keep a number of their members active.

We in FISTS Down Under have tried on several occasions to have regular nets. In each case the initial activity petered out fairly quickly. A very few of our down under members occasionally join our friends in East Asia in their regular Sunday evening 20 metre net, +/- 14.054 MHz, 08:00 UTC. They get a warm welcome. The net is entirely conducted in English.

We have never tried to organise a contest, preferring to encourage interest in a few local contests, (Sangster Shield, NZART Straight Key Night and the Oceania DX CW Contest.) FISTS Down Under members seem to be heard regularly in those.) So in New Zealand there is obvious interest in specialised CW contests. The situation is not so clear cut in Australia and there may be a need for us to organise something there.

So it is in the area of a local net (or nets) here down under that there is a sad lack of activity. We receive the occasional inquiry from members wanting to participate in a net but so far nobody has been bold enough to put up their hand to try to resurrect the idea and put it into practice.

Erratic propagation conditions don't favour reliable trans-Tasman contacts, so a regular VK/ZL net might not be easy to maintain. However contacts within each country are more reliably achievable, especially if our VK members had regionally oriented nets because of the size of the country.

Your existing FISTS Down Under officers are already very busy and would not be able to take on any additional tasks. So here's a challenge; Firstly we need someone to take up the role of Activities Organiser; to encourage more FISTS Down Under members on the air, assisting with the establishment of regional nets, taking over the notices about contests in the newsletter and generally advising members of operational opportunities. Secondly helpers would be needed to handle the organisation at regional level.

FISTS DOWN UNDER WEB SITE

We are also seeking the assistance from our members of someone to undertake the general maintenance of the club's web site. The first priority is to complete the captions on the gallery of Morse keys. Then it would be a case of ensuring that the site is up to date with supplied material and that all the previously posted material is relevant. The website software is very simple and the job would be suitable for someone who feels at home on his computer and has a bit of occasional spare time. If necessary a computer could be supplied.

If you are interested in getting involved in all or any of this please contact us by email <fists-down-under@ihug.co.nz> or by mail to one of the officers listed in the masthead.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME – (DST) – DOWN UNDER

This is the time of the year when we start to adopt daylight saving time in most of our membership area.

The programme for these changes is:

French Polynesia – does not adopt DST.

New Zealand – 29 September 2013 to 6 April 2014.

Australia - ACT; NSW; TAS; SA and Broken Hill - 6 October 2013 to 6 April 2014

NT; WA; QLD – these states do not adopt DST.

While on the topic of time, this interesting report from ITU appeared in the press recently

For at least ten years experts have been debating the use of leap seconds, tiny bits of time added to calendars and clocks in hopes of reconciling the difference between atomic time used by computer systems and time as defined by measuring the Earth's movement around the sun and its daily, but slightly slowing, rotation.

Governments have been split on the issue but are expected to make a decision this week at a UN telecom meeting, says the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) on Tuesday.

The United States, France and others are the primary countries pushing for the entire scientific community to abolish the leap second, while Britain is digging in its heels to maintain the current system along with China and Canada, y. Russia has not publicly voiced its opinion but has quietly aligned itself with Britain and China.

As computers became more accurate and faster, leap seconds became more necessary to prevent atomic clocks from speeding ahead of solar time. Added at irregular intervals beginning in 1972, these extra seconds effectively stretch atomic time by a heartbeat to make up for the irregular wobble in the Earth's rotation.

Vincent Meens, who headed an ITU group recommending the removal of leap seconds, told reporters, "This will be an important decision because the problem of introducing the leap second will disappear and we will be able to have a more standard time than the one we have today."

"Time is very, very important for synchronization of all the radio communications systems. For instance, a lot of systems are using GPS time just to synchronize themselves and that would be very important for everybody to have the same time," he said, referring to satellite navigation systems.

Although an added second every few years is undetectable by most people, operators of cell phone networks, financial markets and air traffic control systems need to have accuracy in their timekeeping to keep vital infrastructure on track.

Stopping their systems for the length of a heartbeat every year or two is disruptive and potentially dangerous, says Elisa Felicitas Arias, director of the time department at the Paris-based International Bureau of Weights and Measures.

"You can make a dramatic error if, for example, you are trying to land an aircraft," she said, noting that rocket launches, too, are never scheduled on days when a leap second might occur. "This is something we are trying to correct."

"Most of the people who operate time services favor discontinuing leap seconds," Judah Levine, a physicist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Boulder, Colorado, said. "The main problem is that the leap second is usually implemented by stopping the clock for one second. However, the world doesn't stop," he said.

Satellite navigation systems like GPS don't use leap seconds, which adds confusion, said Levine. "In addition, the leap second occurs in the middle of the day in Asia and Australia, which is particularly inconvenient."

Over the past 40 years, 34 seconds have been added to UTC, a spokesman said.

QUART IN A PINT POT **By VK3DBD/G3SCD –David #3756**

For some 13 years now I have enjoyed what some see as the best of both worlds, part of the year in Australia and the other part in England, naturally choosing the appropriate time to reasonably ensure good weather was likely to exist at each location. In VK a near dream location for an aerial farm, with 8 acres of rugged hillside where no one thought to even question a beam on a mast or the various wires that sprouted in various directions- and often changed too. In England a small single story house (called a bungalow in this part of the world) with a relatively small garden and in a ANOB that translates as: *An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or- An area of countryside considered to have significant landscape value*) Now whereas one can agree such places ought not to be "messed with" it is a fact that folk do live and work here, fortunately they are not too thick on the ground. So it follows that the authorities do not encourage the addition of anything that might intrude on the skyline.

Then things went very wrong

2013 started badly XYL being diagnosed with lung cancer: a great shock indeed, our priorities became focussed on investigating all possibilities of a cure or at worst a delay of the inevitable. It was not to be and in April we decided to make a quick return to our roots and family connections and on June 3rd.2013, Ann's battle for life was sadly lost. After nearly 50 years of marriage, to lose one's partner, best friend, mother of two, general manager, cook and moderator-of-daft-ideas (like rhombic,) adjustment is not easy. So I found myself with a totally, different and unexpected situation. Not least where do I live?

That decision will eventually be made, but in the meantime I do have commitments and business interests in England as well as a small dwelling more than adequate for one, too much real estate does have drawbacks. Commonsense applies.

My UK Summer radio activities, in relatively warm weather were acceptable in the garden shed but now due to different circumstances, the rapid approach of autumn and cooler weather and the absence of enforced guidance. It seemed more sensible to move the station to the comfort of a better insulated building.

The antenna farm, as previously mentioned is certainly restricted, I try not to upset those who condemn aers, wires, or masts and fortunately in the only adjoining house live extremely pleasant neighbours who respect other folk's desires and hobbies. Therefore a low profile approach is best to ensure continuance of that state as well as making a

small effort to deter any adverse thoughts from the local planning dept. . . . With the change of location, albeit only a matter of yards to get the coax cables into the house tidily, meant some re-orientation of the elements.

I had a 20m dipole, a 30m dipole, with a 40m dipole on the same coax, and a trap in it for 10m. A 132ft long end fed wire, (for 160m) a 66ft end fed wire (for 80m) and a 6m dipole as well as a two meter slim-jim on a 28ft pole. Admittedly too much wire in the small space.

Bringing the coax into the appropriate place in the house meant a hole through the wall. - A new and superbly insulated wall only some 5 years old. I drilled through the 12 in of brick and cavity with a 42 mm diameter brick cutter taking care it went in and out at the right places with a suitable slope upwards should any rain be inclined to go the wrong way. For once this actually worked as intended, entering the house just above the skirting board, in the chosen corner of our pleasant light and airy Sun Room. Here, during the building of this I had thoughtfully pre-empted a situation of radio just there and fixed two power points and even a telephone point, a TV coax point and some buried wires in the plaster for perhaps speaker wires for Hi-Fi etc. The TV aerial point, telephone and speaker wires are unused and likely to remain so.

+Next problems were the antennas. The list above may look impressive but with a maximum height of a bungalow roof and not too many suitable trees to hang things on, a virtual taboo on poles so all the antennas are of the lazy Z type. (A poor shape and do not work very hard)

Trying to keep the set up tidy was a priority, for my own satisfaction at least.

Getting an end fed wire inside would be difficult and untidy, so coax had to be the only way.. 6 m band has been a poor experience- most of the time there is no one there and when there is they only want a locator, so that has been abandoned . 160m is a band I like, perhaps for nostalgic reasons as that was where I came in on Amateur radio. It is fraught with noises these days and there are very few users particularly during daytime. At only a few feet high, an aerial cannot be a good radiator and also needs a good earth. I have an earth but how good??

Reluctantly, the decision was made to cut the 132ft in half, insert one of my cheap and cheerful but tough, waterproof and reliable dipole centres and turn it into a 80m dipole, this conveniently brought the coax feed somewhere near the chosen hole in the wall, the total of 132 ft is actually bent at near 90 deg to fit on the property and utilise existing trees. The equation was somewhat upset with the addition of the special NOV (Notice of Variation to use the 5 MHz band) I requested earlier this year,

It has proved a favourite and seems to offer the best of both the 80m and the 40m band without the noises. So the 40m dipole was extended to make about a 44ft each side dipole, I made two 7 MHz traps and inserted these along with the 10m trap. and the 30m dipole was connected in parallel, so hopefully 10m, 30m, 40m and 60m were all on one coax. The 80m dipole is a stand alone with its own coax as is the 20m dipole which I managed to hang up slightly higher than previously and with the coax too conveniently near to the entry point. Having found a drum of new RG58 recently at a hamfest for a very nominal price, the dipoles were treated to new feeders and after fitting through the tunnel in the wall, the inside was terminated with a slightly modified electrical cover plate in keeping with others in the room. Outside the excess coax (to allow for minor aerial re-adjustments in future) was coiled and taped into reasonably tidy order. The cable entry with a 90 deg bend sloping down was fitted onto the pipe and sealed with mastic to ensure no wildlife would seek out a new residence.

The all important earth wire - I found a few odd lengths of scrap copper pipe, and with a blow lamp soldered these bits together, as they were driven into the ground some 5 to 6 feet deep and soldered to that a suitable length of heavy 10sq mm copper wire to ensure a low resistance and acceptable RF earth

To complete the tidy effect I fastened the coax to the wall with cable clips. See photos.

Temporarily I have my HF radio and power supply sitting on a small coffee table or similar with castors in front of an armchair. True armchair copy, all works fine and it is notable to see that my touch key paddle, which failed to work before due to RF in the shack, now seems to work as it should. To date the operator needs more practice at concentration when using it -it will not work as squeeze paddle-

The seating position is not ideal to use a key. Currently I am working on an idea of some kind of small cupboard and / or desk which could be closed to hide the radio gear and which would offer a better and less back aching seating for the OM

Two meters is little used except for local net and the coax from the (white stick) collinear on the house roof comes into a different room in the house - I may in the near future transplant it to another gable end

As a bonus the combined dipole does load up on 17m band and possibly others. 15 m is not happy. The solution to that may be to make yet another pair of traps for that band. 15m, and 12m I has never been a success for me unless there are some freak and lift conditions (like occurs regularly on 10m)

I do expect to return to VK in the coming months, no dates fixed as yet

Good signals from number of VK stations have been heard at good strength around 0700-0800 UTC Notably VK3XU and a few others as well as some SSB stations Regretfully my puny .signal seldom over-rides the mass of callers in EU who pounce on any down-under station when a QSO ends. (Or even before). But a few VKs and just one ZL have found the way into the log over the last few weeks



I just had to buy this bottle of Red....(The label reads "Telegraph Station")

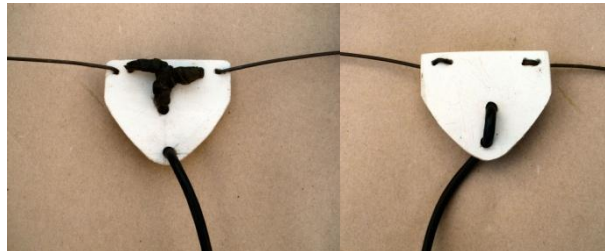
-Helping the Morse Flow

Effective and neat, three coax feeders come through the hole in the wall and are permanently connected to the radio (ICOM 746)



Mobile shack

Home made from scrap plastic, the coax and antennas wire is well secured by passing through holes and then soldered and wrapped with self amalgamating tape. Support for ends is nylon fishing line of 40 or 50 lbs breaking strain- This needs no insulators and fastens to a loop on wire end using a bowline and a few extra hitches for safety it is virtually invisible.



Dipole centres

Traps A pair of home made traps similar to those used in the antenna. (these are 24 MhZ) These have high voltage capability as the capacity is made from double sided PCB giving about 100pf and the coil is wound to suit the desired frequency. Seem to be high Q and quite critical to adjust.



Traps

The wall outside showing the feeders fastened to the brickwork with cable clips and the entry through the 40mm plastic pipe into the house



Outside

EDITORIAL

Our editor **ZL2TX-Nigel #9040** is having a break while he undertakes duty with the administration for district and regional elections in his area. So, for this issue of FISTS Down Under, **ZL2AOH-Ralph #1073** is your acting editor. He thanks those who have contributed to this issue. Nigel looks forward to receiving further contributions. – PLEASE, We like to receive shack visits or news of whatever you have been up to!