

 	<h2 style="margin: 0;">FISTS DOWN UNDER</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Newsletter – November 2011</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">Editor & QSL Manager for ZL: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX, P.O. Box 15078, Otaki 5542, New Zealand. - Tel: 06-364-6339</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Newsletter Distribution & QSL Manager for VK: Chris Thompson, VK1CT, P O Box 65, Dickson, ACT 2602, Australia</p> <p style="margin: 0;">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="margin: 0;">QSL Manager for ZL6FF: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX at address above. QSL Manager for VK2FDU: Chris Thompson VK1CT at address above</p> <p style="margin: 0;">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) – 24.918 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.

DOWN UNDER MEMBERS' NEWS

We appreciate the donations made by **VK4BCM-Bevan #9053**, and **VK3CGB-Chris # 9087**. Also the following made donations, but were not mentioned in previous newsletters. **(September) VK3HJ-Luke #9697, VK3PC-Jim #9679, VK4BUI-Les # 9617 and (October) VK2DLF-Georg #9052**. *My apologies - however I was only recently advised of your generosity - Ed*

Congratulations to **ZL2AVL-Bill #9033** on receiving his 60 year Certificate from the New Zealand Old Timers' Club

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

These are some of the CW contest/event offerings in November 2011 most of which will be of more interest to our NA and EU readers

Thanks to WA7BNM Contest Calendar - <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z Nov 5 to 1200Z Nov 6
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest CW	2100Z Nov 5 to 0300Z Nov 7
NZART Straight Key Night (see below)	0700Z - 0900Z Nov 6
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1700Z Nov 6
OK/OM DX Contest CW	1200Z Nov 12 to 1200Z Nov 13
Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z Nov 12 to 0200Z Nov 13
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z Nov 17
LZ DX Contest	1200Z Nov 19 to 1200Z Nov 20
All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	1600Z Nov 19 to 0700Z Nov 20
RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest CW	2100Z Nov 19 to 0100Z Nov 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z Nov 21
RSGB 80m Club Sprint CW	2000Z-2130Z Nov 24
CQ Worldwide DX Contest CW	0000Z Nov 26 to 2400Z Nov 27

ZL1AIH-Ken #9094 organiser of the NZART Straight Key Night has advised us of the revised rules for the event.

Rules NZART Straight Key Night

Polish and lubricate that old Morse key and enjoy an evening of old time radio fun. This is an activity night in which everyone can be a winner with a certificate to prove it.

When: First Sunday in November 2000-2200 NZST in two one-hour periods

Band: 80 m (3.5 MHz) only

Mode: CW sent with STRAIGHT KEY i.e. characters formed manually, no system of automatic dots, dashes or spacing permitted.

Divisions: 1. Vintage QRP, 2. Vintage QRO, 3. Open QRP and 4. Open QRO.

Explanation: Vintage receivers and transmitters or transceivers using valves, no solid-state devices in the signal line permitted. QRP: 5 watts or less RF output.

Exchange: 1. RST, 2. QTH, 3. Operator's name (one word), 4. Key used (e.g. ZC1, P&T), 5. TX type e.g. ZC1, FT1000, homebrew) and 6. TX power (watts). - Except for DX stations (i.e. non ZL mainland) only RST, operator's name, and QTH need be exchanged.

Scoring: ONE Point per QSO. - Stations may be worked once in each one-hour period, CW to CW only. All stations submitting logs MUST use a straight key throughout, but straight key stations may QSO stations using bugs, electronic keyers or keyboards.

Multipliers: 1. Vintage QRP multiply total points by 2, 2. Open QRP multiply total points by 1.5, 3. Vintage QRO multiply total points by 1.2, and 4. Open QRO multiply total points by 1.

Logs: Suggest using standard NZART log pages (not contest log sheets).

Each log QSO entry to show about station worked: 1. Time (NZST or Z), 2. Call sign, 3. RST, 4. QTH, 5. Name, 6. Key type, 7. TX type and 8. TX power.

Calculate total score then multiply by the appropriate multiplier to give total score claimed.

Logs to have associated data sheet giving entrants: 1. Name, 2. Call sign, 3. QTH, 4. Age (optional), Full description of equipment used including: 5. Key, 6. TX/RX, 7. TX power, and 8. Antenna.

Send logs by mail by 30 November to: Ken McCormack, ZL1AIH, 181 Ararimu Valley Road, Waimauku, AUCKLAND, or email zl1aih@xtra.co.nz

All (including DX stations) who send a log will receive a certificate. Special certificates to top three in each division. Annotated certificates e.g. Best ZC1, Youngest/oldest op, etc., at manager's discretion. Any photos of operators and/or equipment gratefully received.

N.B. Winners in each section receive a FISTS Down Under Prize comprising a certificate and one year's subscription to FISTS Down Under

TRAWLING THE WEB

Subscription to CQ Communications email magazine is no longer free – <http://store.cq-amateur-radio.com/Detail.bok?no=263>

A treasure trove of ham radio resources – <http://n0hr.com>

R.M.S. Titanic 100 Years – Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
[En.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS_Titanic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS_Titanic)

TIME – PART 3

We promised last month that in a further article we would show some of the variations that exist in the implementation of daylight saving time (DST) in other countries. This stimulates attention just before now as it is one of the two periods during the year when the changeover between standard and daylight saving times takes place.

When we sat down to research the article we were confronted with a mass of information that would overwhelm this newsletter. So reluctantly it was decided to recommend that you should study the excellent article on the subject in Wikipedia. This can be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time_around_the_world

Looking at the situation of time observance in VK/ZL we repeat the following article that appeared in the August 2003 FISTS Down Under, edited up-to-date.

Australian Time Zones and Daylight Saving Time

Recently we were asked by a member in the United States to explain the time zones and the application of daylight saving time (DST) in Australia. Our research revealed it was a highly complicated business. We thought it would interest our readers; even those in Australia might be surprised by the results!

New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia all keep DST starting on the last Sunday in October and finishing on the first Sunday in April

Queensland, Northern Territory and West Australia keep to standard time throughout the year.

The standard times are (hours ahead of UTC)

New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory, Queensland -10 h

South Australia, Northern Territory - 9h 30m

West Australia - 8 h

Broken Hill is in New South Wales but observes South Australian time

Some of the settlements in WA on the road between the South Australian border and Perth have individual local times depending on their longitude

Norfolk Island is 11h 30m ahead of UTC and does not observe DST

Lord Howe Island is 10h 30m ahead of Greenwich and observes DST on the same timetable as New South Wales.

Christmas Island observes time 7hours ahead of Greenwich and does not observe DST

In New Zealand, standard time is 12 hours ahead of Greenwich and Chatham Islands time is 12h 45 m ahead of UTC. Apart from penguins sitting on the Antarctic ice shelf, Chatham Islanders are probably the first in the world to see the rising sun.

DST in New Zealand is observed from the last Sunday in October until the first Sunday in April.

An interesting aspect of New Zealand industrial law: - If, due to turning the clocks forward, an employee works fewer hours than they would normally work, they must be paid for the hour lost. If, due to turning the clocks backwards, an employee works more hours than they would normally work, they must be paid for the extra hour at the rate normally paid for excess hours worked.

OTHER MEMBERS' NEWS

VE6RI-Bob #5373 wrote: Thank you for the article 100 years Wellington Radio. (FISTS Down Under – August 2011.) It brought back pleasant memories. I worked ZLW many times as a Radio Officer with the Union Steamship Company of N.Z. back in the sixties. When I lived in N.Z (Ngiao) I used the ham call ZL2QA and when in Auckland, I had the call ZL1AX. When at Sea, I used the call ZL2FF/MM. In Canada, I hold the calls VE3EIM and VE6RI. My fists number is 5373 and my CC nr. is 1515. You can see me on QRZ.com.

G0KOK / 8P9CC Peter #13226 writes: - I will be making my annual pilgrimage to Barbados with the Icom 703. Fellow FISTS do look out for 8P9CC on the usual frequencies from the 29th November

ANOTHER MARITIME KEY EXPERIENCE

Adrian Ellison ZS1TTZ / M0GNC

I worked for Safmarine, originally based in London and it was during my stay with them that I emigrated to South Africa, and on their fleet you could expect to sail with just about anything – Redifon, ITT, AEI, Marconi or JRC. The later JRC consoles were absolutely superb, lovely stations to operate!

I used to take my own keyer with me, a Katsumi EK-150, how it survived all those bumpy rides in aircraft luggage holds I'll never know, it even survived my suitcase bursting open after rough handling during a baggage handler strike at Heathrow and came down the baggage carousel on its own, followed by my shirts and socks etc and the suitcase opened up like a clam shell, but I still have it and it's still in use in my Amateur Station today and hasn't got a mark on it.

Mentioning key back contacts, the Marconi consoles were the only ones I came across that needed this. I'd purchased my Katsumi in London and practiced for hours up in my bedroom until I got the hang of it.
- I hated it at first!

I flew out to Capetown to join what would be my first Marconi equipped ship. I boarded in the evening and we were away early the next morning, I went up to open the station and prepare to send the TR (Voyage Report) to ZSC as we cast off the ropes, and was horrified when I unplugged the Marconi Key and the Apollo Receiver went dead, only two terminals on the back of the Katsumi. The Katsumi has transistor or relay keying, took the lid off and there was the unused back contact on the relay staring right at me, so I routed a wire through one of the unused sockets on the back to a 3 pole plug and by the time we dropped the pilot off I was ready to go. That ship really taught me the value of an electronic keyer, as telegrams were often quite long and composed mainly of weird container id's. I never used a straight key again.

The first time I saw an electronic key in use was at North Foreland / GNF during a day outing from college and being a student I was totally amazed at the skill of the operator using it. At the time he was taking a telegram down on the typewriter when a ship called on 500, and while still typing with one hand he quickly flicked the transmitter back to 500 and answered "up 425 QRY2" with the other. I think all our jaws dropped when we saw that!

I was also lucky enough to visit Portishead Radio on a similar outing which was also pretty amazing, sad to see it's all gone now, I had hoped that the buildings would survive as something like the Bletchley Park of maritime communications, but it's now a housing estate called Mulholland Park, apparently there's no sign at all, that there was such a significant and historic radio station there. Gone forever!

I almost ended up working there actually, as when I finally graduated from college there were no seagoing jobs available at all, and certainly British companies were reducing the size of their fleets at the time. I wrote letters to every shipping company I could find, including Safmarine, and then went off to work for Colvern, the potentiometer manufacturer, while I waited. After two years nothing had happened and my license was due to lapse, but of course you could keep your license valid if you worked for a coast station, so off I went to the G.P.O. for an interview at their offices in London. That interview was almost like taking the part 2 examination all over again, complete with full Morse test (I hadn't touched a Morse key in nearly 2 years!) Anyway they were happy and I was scheduled to go to Portishead for 6 months training, and from there to Wick Radio in Scotland which was to be my permanent base (I'd asked for GNF (North Foreland) with GIL (Ilfracombe) as second choice but they just laughed, it was GKR or nothing! Then with about a week to go I got a phone call from Safmarine asking if I was still interested and the rest as they say is history.

The following week I was boarding the SA Tzaneen / ZTTZ (from which my Amateur call sign is derived) at Sheerness, bound for Hamberg and then Capetown, with a mixture of Redifon gear (R408 / RMT 1500) and the original AEI reserve rack (the ship was built in 1963/4).

Currently I mainly operate on 40m with a ¼ wave vertical and an FT-2000. I've got a 40 foot tower here waiting to be installed and a Hygain TH3 MK4 still in boxes which when installed should do no harm to my H/F capability at all, hopefully it will happen soon! 73 - See you on the bands, soon – Adrian, ZS1TTZ / M0GNC.