

 	<h2 style="text-align: center;">FISTS DOWN UNDER</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Newsletter May 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.

ZL2AJ-JACK CULLOTTY #9095 – SILENT KEY

We are sorry to report the death of ZL1AJ-Jack Cullotty #9095 on 5 April 2013. Jack was well known on the air and achieved much success, especially in the two New Zealand 80 metre activities, Sangster Shield and NZART Straight Key Night. He again topped the list in the 2012 SKN event in early November. On behalf of FISTS Down Under we have sent condolences to Jack's daughters who have graciously responded.

Jack's daughter Lorraine has written - We would like to somehow sponsor a prize on Dad's behalf, in his memory. - A badge, a cup, I'll leave it to you to think about, so could you please consider how we may do so and let me know.

With Lorraine's agreement we are asking for suggestions or a suitable way for FISTS Down Under to commemorate Jack's life. Please contact us at one of the addresses in the masthead

MEMBERS' NEWS

Congratulations to **VK4FVLP-Brendon #14134** who has upgraded with the new call **VK4HIA**

VK4FJGS- Jason #14160, who joined last month, sent us these personal notes: - I am a member of the Central Queensland Amateur Radio Association (**CQARA**) - (<http://www.cqara.org.au>). I am starting lesson 2 in the Koch method at Learn CW Online (<http://lcwo.net/>). I'm now finding it fun and not getting bored, as I was with the previous methods. I have the settings at 16wpm. It sounds quite fast on the air when I listen. I want to become as proficient as possible before CQARA goes to Sea Hill Lighthouse on Curtis Island in Central Queensland for the ILLW (<http://illw.net/>) again this year. You can see a video of us at Sea Hill Curtis Island 2012 (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-RWLSNyNrl> and <http://www.youtube.com/user/cqararockhampton>)

My pride and joy is an FT-817nd, bought last year and various portable antennas of different styles and lengths. I have an MFJ-561 mini travel iambic in my portable kit, which I have used with my 817 and a dummy load. (<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-561>). I also have a mini straight key (fully adjustable) coming from Canada that currently has a black 2-pin plug on it

NEW MEMBERS



A warm welcome this month to ZL2CVW-Max Saunders #14162 from Tawa, a northern suburb of Wellington. He says - I am a relatively new ham - I was licensed shortly after the CW requirement was dropped here in NZ. Oddly enough, Phil ZL2OW-Phil 14122 is our local CW elmer.



I am a keen recreational pilot and aircraft homebuilder and particularly enjoy my Flitzer Z-21A ZK-FZR that badly needs a CW key and a spark transmitter! See <http://www.flitzerbiplane.com/>

We also welcome **VK7JB-John Farmer #15163** - Here's what he sent us about himself - I'm 50 years young and I live in the mountains just South of Hobart. I am a beginner in the art of CW, but it has opened up another world for me: a world of new people and new music. HF DX is my main interest and I play with a variety of modes, but I have a fascination with getting the most from simple wire antennas and with the magic of QRP and this is what first led me to CW. It is the most efficient and simple way of finding folks to talk with across the world. My challenge is the QRP DXCC and I'm working on it. My other ham interest is building gear – Elecraft transceiver kits, test equipment and portable QRP rigs, which I often take away on portable camping adventures. I always have a project on the go. I have had my advanced licence since 2006, but my background is in health care, not engineering or electronics, so everything I know about

Always something new to learn in this great hobby and that's what keeps it alive for me. I'm looking forward meeting many FISTS members on air to continue some more of these conversations in CW.

OTHER MEMBER'S NEWS

G3ZOD-Graham #8385 reports that the latest version (2.5.4) of the free FISTS Log Converter program <http://fists.co.uk/flc> fixes a problem with creating logs for the FISTS Fifth Sundays activities <http://fists.co.uk/fifth> as well as providing other enhancements. You can get a copy of the program from the download page <http://fists.co.uk/flc>

HOUSEKEEPING

Here is the latest renewals list. Please check 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.

Renewals due by 31 May 2013; some are overdue: -

9067 ; 9072 ; 9075 ; 9097 ; 9566 ; 9601 ; 9620 ; 9663 ; 9673 ; 9689 ; 14105 ; 14118 ; 14119 ; 14121 ; 14136 ; 14137 ; 14138 ; 14139 ; 14140 ; 14142 ; 14143 ; 14144 ;

TRAWLING THE WEB

An article on amateur radio contesting that appeared in Sports Illustrated magazine: <http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1002473/index.htm>

A WebSDR is a Software-Defined Radio receiver connected to the internet, allowing many listeners to listen and tune it simultaneously: <http://www.websdr.org/>

Those "funny" modes – sound samples of the various digimodes: <http://www.nonstopsystems.com/radio/radio-sounds.html#sounds>



FREE TO GOOD HOME

'Lo Key' newsletters

Published quarterly by the VK QRP Club, these newsletters are full of interesting articles and circuits to build. I have a complete collection from June 1999 to Dec 2012. Most of them have been stored in protective sheets and binders, so they're in excellent condition. Free + postage. If interested, please contact Chris VK2CTN (details in masthead).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

These are some of the CW contest/event offerings in May 2013, most of which will be of more interest to our northern hemisphere readers. Thanks to WA7BNM Contest Calendar

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 4 to 2359Z, May 5
ARI International DX Contest	1200Z, May 4 to 1159Z, May 5
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 4 to 0700Z, May 5
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 7
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 8 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 8 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 9
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, May 9
EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party	1000Z-1200Z, May 11 and 1800Z-2000Z, May 12
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 11 to 1159Z, May 12
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, May 11 to 2400Z, May 12
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 11
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 18 to 1200Z, May 19
Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 18 to 0200Z, May 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, May 20
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 22
CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, May 23
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, May 23
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 25 to 2359Z, May 26
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 26 to 0300Z, May 27

This list of FISTS activities in May 2013 is extracted from www.fists.co.uk

FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	EVENT	TIMES
Mon 29 Apr	Fri 03 May	EUCW QRS Activity Week	0000-2359 UTC
Thu 09 May		FISTS EU Europa Day	1400-1700 UTC
Sat 11 May		EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party	1000-1200 UTC
Sat 11 May		FISTS NA Spring Sprint	1700-2100 UTC
Sun 12 May		RSGB 4m CW Contest	0900-1200 UTC
Sun 12 May		FISTS EU Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

Sun 12 May		EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party	1800-2000 UTC
Sat 18 May	Fri 24 May	FISTS EU Exchange Your Age Week	0001-2359 UTC
Sun 26 May		FISTS EU Ladder	1400-1600 UTC, 1800-2000 UTC

SHACK VISITS

Last month we said we would be publishing an illustrated article that we had received about a member's shack. We said that we hope to make shack visits a regular feature. The response to our request for articles on members' shacks has been underwhelming. So please let us know how and where you operate. If you aren't sure how to go about it, just send us your notes and we'll knock it into shape for you. Add photos of course. Below is the only contribution received to date.

SHACK ATTACK

By VK4EI-Lyn #14132

Last month's issue with the true story of what a Ham's shack really looks like was very interesting. It was fun zooming in to see Who's got What and Where and How they install it...And all those wires at the back – makes you wonder why on earth a radio is called a 'Wireless'...

The emailed newsletter coincided with an email from a ham friend here in North Queensland – with a photo of his shack and the mess he had just made on a project...It sparked off (pardon any Morse puns there hihi) a funny



exchange of emails around the NQ hams, many of whom are keen Morsies. So here below is a bit of running commentary and confessions, with names and call signs omitted to protect the guilty :-). No problem posting photos of the shack, because we all know that when visitors turn up it gets tidied and nobody would recognize it anyway!

Can anyone make a mess like this; I finished putting the VHF UHF in the console of the car and making RJ-12, 6 wire cable and power line and coax line. Took hours to find half this gear, it will take hours to tidy and put away, and then It will take hours to find again. D1

Although R does not agree, I have always believed that any flat surface was designed for a purpose and with this belief in mind; I am not going to share a photograph of my SHACK MESS. Even the floor comes in handy for little piles of paper and pre-loved treasure, as long as you leave a walkway from the door to your rigs etc. My shack is located in the back bedroom and of course on closing the door, it's simply a matter of "out of sight, out of mind".

Many of you would agree, that providing the lady of the house does not shift our piles of papers etc during housekeeping or whatever, the mind usually prompts your memory as to what location/pile to examine and find what you are looking for.

So D, no need to feel guilty about your project generated mess as photographed and that is why none of the recipients of your E-mail and photograph have yet responded with a photograph of their shack work area. D2

I agree, you guys know exactly where to find things in all that chaos, it's a bloke thing. But organized chaos can work just as well, particularly when you do the sorting, and by my threatening to tidy, NO better word, is clean W's indoor radio shack, (because it was a rats nest) brought about results we could both live with, because out of sight out of mind doesn't work very well here. W loses to many things that I have to go find for him,,, SO, long live the ham, BUT somewhere else pleaseeee..... H (XYL)

Ah H, we don't always know where things are as I have a safe place where I put many, things and regularly can't find them again!!

I had an army long wire antenna and have no idea where the heck I put it - and that's only just one. I did consider the possibility of duality and it's in the other, but 180deg out of phase, universe!! M

I know where it is M, You gave it to me to try out, and it's still here, I wonder what else of yours is here, I think we maybe do a race of each others shack. I can actually put my hand right on it, I don't dare shift it, I won't be able to find it.....what was it you lost again...? D1

I don't know, M, you blokes are hopeless. W spends more time looking for stuff than he does on the job, and I'm ashamed to say I'm getting to be nearly as bad, And I'm frightened... Seriously... I'm starting to think like a bloke.

My watch band broke the other day just as we were leaving to go out, and in the car along the road W noticed I was wearing it, and asked me had I fixed it and how so quickly? I showed him what I had done, and he nearly ran over a cyclist. I had stuck a couple of staples in it and actually wore it out of the house that way. Still wearing it in fact... Now if that isn't bloke thinking I don't know what is..? Jeez it's scary ... And we are renovating the bathroom at the moment, the house is a mess, because you can't keep it all in one room, NO that would be too sensible you just walk the crop all through the house. And when he said he would give me a hand to clean up last night, I just threw my hands in the air and said, "If we don't get it cleaned up by Monday night, we can just burn the house down, I'm going to bed." Now tell me that's not scary, so who knows, in the future W might not have to worry about how tidy his shack is, because by then I might have too many Y chromosomes and not even notice... H

I suppose we'd better join in the fray of 'missing' items. Just in case you're looking for it M, we still have your 80m base vertical up a pole in our garden and also, your car polish when you feel like giving your wagon a bit of spit and polish! When you want your antenna back, you'll have to come and get it 'cos we can't get it down ourselves!! You guys think you have problems with your shack and keeping things just as you want them. Put yourself in D's shoes - he has to share with me. Years ago when we first got into radio, it was a case for me if you can't beat 'em, join 'em, now D is probably thinking that maybe it wasn't such a good idea - hi!! His half is as he wants it - mine is tidy! P (XYL)



Latest from the shack - not as chaotic as some but I tend to wonder what is exactly connected to what at times!!

48 keys/bugs and paddles and a door knob Soviet era key on its way from Poland. M

So there you have it – and just remember – a cluttered shack is the sign of an active ham!

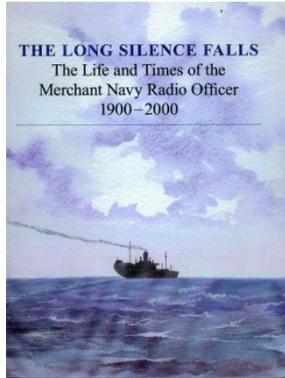
“THE LONG SILENCE FALLS”
By ZL2AOH-Ralph #1073

I received a package from RSGB, just after my 90th birthday. I was delighted to find that it contained a copy of this handsome book that was a present from my good friend **G3KMG-David #124**. Although I was never a radio officer, as a deck officer, I had served with and become friendly with many ROs, and of course, many of our FISTS members were members of that noble profession. It is a production of the Radio Officers' Association (ROA), although, strangely, it does not have the usual publisher's identification. It is obtainable on-line from the RSGB bookshop: - http://www.rsqbshop.org/acatalog/Online_Catalogue_General_Books_30.html-

The formal opening is an introduction by Prof Brian Cotton, Life President of ROA, and a foreword by Capt Richard Woodman, Elder Brother, Trinity House and a brief editor's note. The main content of the book is of articles that have appeared on the ROA's own quarterly newsletter, "QSO". It covers all aspects of how radio officers were trained, appointed to ships, and their shipboard life and shore-going escapades. Much reference to beer and baccy, and as most were adolescents, girls! As can be expected in a book on the era of ROs there are tales of wartime and other operational successes and failures. Discussed are various types of equipment, the part the Marconi Company played, appointments to specialised ships, shore stations and even radio operations from aircraft. New Zealand and Australia receive attention. There are two articles by our members. **ZL2WT-David #9067** contributed an article about his experiences in a deep-sea trawler together with pictures (including one of himself.) There is one by

ZL2GKB-Iain #12 that includes a quotation from our editor **ZL2TX-Nigel #9040**. There are illustrations of ships and ROs and an interesting supplement on the early uses of distress calls.

The contributors are not professional writers, however, the articles are informative, entertaining and an enjoyable read. It's a very heavy handsome hard covered volume 225 x 288 x 16 mm; the illustrated covers are reproduced here.

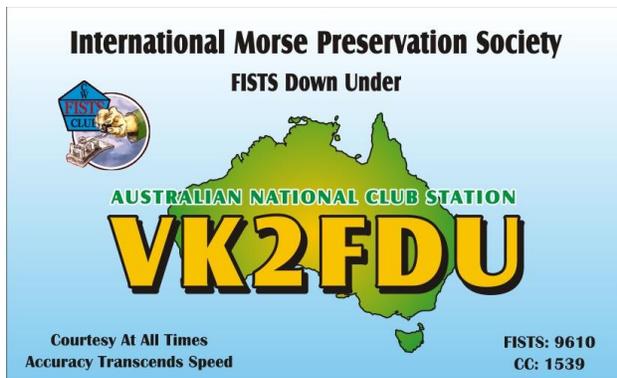


I learned many things that I didn't know before. For instance, some ROs reported that that, as radio silence was maintained, they were tasked with undertaking the visual signalling from the bridge in convoy. That never happened in any ship in which I served; we deck officers were the signallers. (That's how I honed my Morse capability, on the Aldis lamp.) In addition, I was surprised to hear how many ROs there were on the big passenger ships where a strong pecking order prevailed. The junior ROs there mainly handled passenger traffic and news and were lumbered with the unpopular watches.

I feel sure our members, especially former ROs, will enjoy this book. Thanks David, it is a great gift.



VK2FDU



The Australian Fists Club call sign VK2FDU was very active from July to December last year. Many thanks to Chris VK3CGB, David VK3DBD, Ray VK4ZW and Alan VK6PG for spending a considerable amount of time making contacts and promoting the club.

We need more volunteers to operate the call sign during 2013. A roster will be available on the VK2FDU page on QRZ.com. For details on using VK2FDU, please refer to the July 2012 newsletter (available on the Club's website).

If you can volunteer or require further information, please contact Chris VK2CTN (details in masthead).