

 	<h2 style="text-align: center;">FISTS DOWN UNDER</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Newsletter March 2014</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">QSL Manager for ZL: Nigel Hardy, ZL2TX, P.O. Box 15078, Otaki 5542, New Zealand. - Tel: 0-6-364-6339</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;">Web Administration: Garry Cottle VK2GAZ, 96 Luttrell Street, Richmond NSW 2753, Australia. – Tel: 0-2-4588-5429</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.

FISTS DOWN UNDER - EDITOR

In the February 2014 edition of FISTS Down Under we reported that ZL2AIM-Ian #9683 had been appointed editor of our newsletter *FISTS Down Under*. Unfortunately, because of unexpected health problems, Ian was unable to undertake the necessary duties and reluctantly resigned. We wish Ian a rapid recovery. He is continuing to compile "Trawling the Web" and no doubt will still contribute his interesting articles.

Meantime under temporary editorship we will ensure that you do not miss out on your monthly newsletter. We are proud of the fact that we have never missed an issue since our inception. However, this situation cannot go on indefinitely and we need an editor who can continue the tradition that has, so far, endured since we signed on our first FISTS Down Under member on 28 June 1998. We know that a number of our members contribute regularly to a variety of amateur radio publications and media, so FISTS Down Under has the talent and capability in its members. So who is prepared to take up the challenge? Attached to this edition is a document outlining the responsibilities of the editor together with the personal and material support that is available for the incumbent.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Many thanks to the following members who included a donation when sending their subscriptions – ZL3QX-George #14100, ZL2IH-Ian #9027, ZL1AAR-Gwynne #9028 and ZL1AYQ-Jim #9602

VK2CTN-Chris # 9057 reports: - Back in January I had the opportunity to spend a few days travelling around Tasmania. One of the places I visited was Sheffield, which is known as the 'town of murals'. Many of the shops and buildings in the town have been painted to show the scenery and history of the area. One of the murals that particularly caught my attention illustrates the wireless room of Jesse Slater in 1926. According to the plaque on the wall, he was the third person in northern Tasmania to own a wireless set. – Pictures are overleaf



OTHER MEMBERS'NEWS

3ZOD-Graham #8385 reports that his "FISTS Log Converter" includes the East Asia 2014 (10th Anniversary) Awards <http://feacw.net/qrv/FEA_10th_Anniv.htm>so can be used to apply for them using ADIF files exported from logbook programs such as DXKeeper, Logger32, HRD etc. For anyone not currently using a logbook program, "FISTS Log Converter" provides its own logbook that can be used - <http://fists.co.uk/flc>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

These are some of the CW contest/event offerings in March 2014, 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>

MARCH 2014	Timing
FISTS EU St David's Day	1400-1700Z, Mar 1
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0800Z, Mar 1
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Mar 4
AGCW YL-CW Party	1900Z-2100Z, Mar 4
AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest	2300Z, Mar 5 to 2300Z, Mar 6 and 2300Z, Mar 8 to 2300Z, Mar 9
RSGB Commonwealth Contest	1000Z, Mar 8 to 1000Z, Mar 9 - see below
AGCW QRP Contest	1400Z-2000Z, Mar 8
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 8 to 1900Z, Mar 9
FISTS EU Ladder 2014	1400Z-1600Z and 1800-2000Z, Mar 9
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 15 to 1200Z, Mar 16
Virginia QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 15 to 0200Z, Mar 16 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 16
FISTS EU St Patrick's Day	1400-1700Z, Mar 17
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 20
FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 22
Louisiana QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 22 to 0300Z, Mar 23
FISTS EU Ladder 2014	1400Z-1600Z and 1800-2000Z, Mar 23
FISTS EU 5 th Sunday	1300-1700Z, Mar 30

RSGB Commonwealth (BERU) Contest

We in FISTS Down Under have always encouraged participation in this contest. It is a friendlier and leisurely event and a good place for members newer to the air to start their contesting experience.

Contest Rules

The Commonwealth Contest promotes contacts between stations in the Commonwealth and Mandated Territories. A more relaxed contest environment gives the opportunity to work some choice DX.

A vast amount of background information, statistics and photographs related to the Commonwealth Contest may be found on G3PJT's www.beru.org.uk website.

Contest Call Signs may be used by UK entrants holding a valid NoV -- see Rule 2(b).

Contest preferred segments must be complied with (see Rule 1).

The team size in the Team Competition is five, with notification of members' callsigns required (see Rule 6).

Entrants in the Team Competition may now be multi-operator as well as single-operator (see Rule 7).

1. Basic Information

Entrants must comply with [RSGB HF General Rules](#)

Date: 8 - 9 March 2014. The 2nd full weekend of March in each year.

Time: 10:00 - 10:00UTC

Bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28MHz. Activity is normally concentrated in the lower 30kHz of each band. However, entrants must observe band-plans and contest-preferred segments, so no operation must take place below 3510kHz or above 14060kHz.

Mode: CW

Exchange: RST plus serial number. HQ stations will additionally send HQ, which must be logged

2. Eligible entrants

Both sections are for single-operator stations who may not receive any assistance whatsoever during the contest, including the use of spotting nets, packet cluster or other assistance in finding new contacts or bonuses, and must not be connected during the contest to any such systems.

(a) Land-based stations outside the UK within the Commonwealth or British Mandated Territories (as defined by the [RSGB call-area list](#)). Remote operation is permitted, but in addition to the requirements of the [General Rules](#), the operator must be within the same Commonwealth Call Area as the other elements of the station.

(b) UK entrants, who must be members of the RSGB. Entrants who hold a valid NoV from OFCOM may use Contest Call Signs (SCC) in this contest. The UK HQ station is specifically permitted to use a special callsign. Otherwise, the use of prefixes which do not indicate the entrant's country (DXCC Entity), such as GB, is not recommended. UK entrants in the Open and Restricted Sections will have their scores entered automatically into the [HF Championship](#).

3. Sections

(a) Open 24 hour operation - full legal limit on power - no antenna restrictions.
OR

12 hour operation - full legal limit on power - no antenna restrictions.

(b) Restricted 24 hour operation - output power limited to 100 watts - antenna restricted to single element.
OR

12 hour operation - output power limited to 100 watts - antenna restricted to single element.

For stations in the 12-hour categories, off periods must be clearly defined in the Soapbox field of the Cabrillo file and a minimum of 60 minutes in length. However, time before the first contact, and after the final contact, may be of any length. Stations opting to operate for a maximum of 12 hours will be annotated in the results listings.

The term "single element" defines each antenna (e.g. dipole, vertical, long-wire, etc), and does not preclude the use of different single-element antennas during the contest. However, the concurrent use of one single-element antenna for transmitting and another (egg beverage) for receiving is not permitted.

(c) Multi-Operator/ Assisted 24 hour operation - single transmitted signal - full legal limit on power - no antenna restrictions - packet cluster use permitted.

4. Scoring

Contacts may be made with any station using a Commonwealth Call Area prefix, except those within the entrant's own call area. Note that for this contest, the entire UK counts as one call area, and therefore UK stations may not contact each other except as specified in Rule 5. Each contact scores 5 points with a bonus of 20 points for each of the first three contacts with each [Commonwealth Call Area](#) on each band.

5. Headquarters stations

A number of Commonwealth Society HQ stations will be active during the contest and will send HQ after their serial number, to identify themselves. Only one HQ station is permitted per Commonwealth Call Area. Each HQ station counts as an additional call area, and entrants may contact any HQ station (including one in their own call area) for points and bonuses, the annotation HQ being made in the log where appropriate.

6. Team Competition

(a) Each team will consist of up to five stations. In addition to Australia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand and Rest of the Commonwealth teams, any Commonwealth country or geographical region may enter one or more teams. An individual station may represent only one team, and may compete in the Open, Restricted or Multi-operator/Assisted Section. Each station's log must be submitted in the normal w(b) Each team will have a captain who must submit a list of call signs of team members to commonwealth.contest@rsgbcc.org no later than seven days before the start of the contest. Substitutions may be accepted up to the start of the contest.

(c) Stations in the Rest of the Commonwealth team(s) may only be drawn from countries not submitting their own team.

7. Team Scoring

(a) The team score is the sum of individual adjudicated scores, with all stations located in the southern hemisphere or on the equator having their final score multiplied by a "latitude factor".

(b) The "latitude factor" will be re-calculated each year based on published scores: for each hemisphere, the highest-scoring team total for each of the last three years will be used to give an overall total and the factor will be calculated as the ratio of the northern to the southern grand totals rounded down to the nearest two decimal places.

(c) Each team member is competing as a single-operator or multi-operator within the overall contest. No passing of information between team members during the event is permitted, except that team members may contact each other for points and/or bonuses where the contest rules allow.

8. Logs

Each entry must indicate the section entered, with the full postal address of the entrant. Electronic logs must be submitted in Cabrillo format to <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Information on submitting paper logs is available in the RSGB [General Rules](#)

An example of a Commonwealth Contest log in Cabrillo format can be found at <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/formats/BERU.txt>

Further information regarding the Cabrillo format can be found at <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/information/cabrillo.shtml>

9. Closing date for logs

Logs must be received no later than one calendar month after the end of the contest.

10. Awards

(a) Open: The Senior Rose Bowl to the overall leader. The Col Thomas Rose Bowl to the highest-placed UK station.

(b) Restricted: The Junior Rose Bowl to the section leader. The John Dunnington Trophy to the highest-placed UK station who has not won the trophy in the preceding two years.

(c) The Ross Carey Rose Bowl to the highest-placed UK station in the 12-hour category, regardless of section. The VP8GQ Trophy to the highest-placed non-UK station (who has not won the trophy in the preceding two years) in the 12-hour category, regardless of section.

(d) A Commonwealth Medal may be awarded to the entrant who in the opinion of the RSGB Contest Committee has most improved their score or contributed to the contest over the years.

(e) A special "Commonwealth Traveller" certificate will be awarded to the highest-scoring entrant in the Open or Restricted sections who operates from a Commonwealth Call Area not represented in the published results of the previous year's contest. At the discretion of the RSGB Contest Committee, additional "Commonwealth Traveller" certificates *may* be awarded to entrants from especially inaccessible Call Areas.

(f) A certificate will be awarded to the highest-scoring station using QRP (5 watts or less). Such stations must identify themselves by CATEGORY: QRP in the Cabrillo header.

HOUSEKEEPING

In the December 2013 FISTS Down Under the overdues list contained a number of incorrect expiry dates. We have put in a lot of effort to try to remedy the problem. So please check the list carefully. If your number appears incorrectly, please tell us. Otherwise, if your number shows here, please send your subscription promptly.

These are due by **31 March 2014**; some are well overdue: -

3756--9048--9066--9083--9084--9099--9566--9620--9622--9623--9626--9629--9663--9666--9670--
9673--9684--14100--14106--14116--14118--14119--14134--14135--14136--14138--14139--14157--
14158--14159--14160--14161

Membership renewals

Reminder - When renewing your membership via funds transfer, please include identification (call sign, name, FISTS No) in the details section. Otherwise we don't know who has paid.

TRAWLING THE WEB

ZL2AIM-Ian #9682 is spotter for this column. If you have any suggestions of interesting sites, please pass the information to him at <ian.macquillan@xtra.co.nz>.

My links this month are "historical ones".

This link is to a very brief history of Samuel Morse and the code.

<http://www.wrvmuseum.org/morsecodehistory.htm>

Also on the history of the code you may find this interesting

This site at least gives some credence to Vail. <http://www.history.com/topics/inventions/telegraph> I suppose technically the code should really have been called the Vail code!

For those of you into purchasing books on the net, you could have a look at

http://books.google.co.nz/books/about/The_Telegraph.html?id=pzkZPIXm89UC&redir_esc=y which mentions books about the code and the telegraph.

SILENT KEY

We were sorry to learn that **ZL4VV/G3JJT-Max Kempson #16466** became a silent key recently. Unfortunately we do not have details of his next of kin so we have not been able to extend sympathy to his family.

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This is where that article you intended to write but never got round to finishing would have appeared. We want to hear about your operating success (or otherwise,) what you have been building, your antenna experiments, or that new rig you have managed to get going after studying the 100 page user manual.

