

 	<h2 style="text-align: center;">FISTS DOWN UNDER</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Newsletter – October 2012</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>	  FISTS 25 th Anniversary
--	--	--

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.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome **VK7AD- Andrew Cavill #14149**, a resident of Margate, Tasmania. Margate is a small seaside town some 20 kilometres south of Hobart. Andrew is hoping to get help in improving his Morse capability, so would grateful for contacts with other FISTS members. His contact details are in the Down Under membership list distributed with this newsletter.



Panoramic view of Margate, Tasmania

As we go to press, a warm welcome to **VK4KF – Ken Fuller #15150** from Bayside, Brisbane. Ken's profile will hopefully appear in a future newsletter. Meanwhile give some thought to his article later in this newsletter.

MEMBERS NEWS

Thanks to **ZL1BHQ-John #9625** **ZL2GKB-Iain #0012** **ZL4IM-John #9638** and **ZL2AUJ #9668** for enclosing a donation when renewing their subscriptions.

QSL BUREAU

The ZL FISTS QSL Bureau was earlier this month cleared of all cards with postings to the U.S.A. the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. There has been a noticeable drop in the number of cards exchanged possibly due to a lack of activity by members.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

These are some of the CW contest/event offerings in October 2012 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>

ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z Oct 2
German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-0959Z Oct 3
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z Oct 10
CWops Mini- CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z Oct 10 and 1900Z-2000Z Oct 10 and 0300Z-0400Z Oct 11
Oceania DX Contest CW	0800Z Oct 13 to 0800Z Oct 14
QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party	1200Z Oct 13 to 2400Z Oct 14
EU Autumn Sprint CW	1600Z-1959Z Oct 13
FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z-2100Z Oct 13
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2359Z Oct 14
10-10 Int. Fall Contest CW	0001Z Oct 20 to 2359Z Oct 21
New York QSO Party	1400Z Oct 20 to 0200Z Oct 21
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z Oct 20 to 1500Z Oct 21
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z Oct 20 to 1459Z Oct 21
Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint CW	0000Z-0200Z Oct 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z Oct 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z Oct 24
CWops Mini- CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z Oct 24 and 1900Z-2000Z Oct 24 and 0300Z-0400Z Oct 25

TRAWLING THE WEB

Graham G3ZOD #8385, UK FISTS Membership Secretary <g3zodfists@googlemail.com> will give access to the UK FISTS website <<http://fists.co.uk>> Members' Area to any member of FDU (or FEA/NA) on request.

An article on the cell phone/cancer debate -< <http://jnci.oxfordjournals.org/content/93/3/166.full>>

An alternative battery initiative - <<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/06/120628145620.htm>>

A simple antenna calculator program has been posted on our web site at <<http://www.fistsdownunder.org/generalinfo.htm>>

HOUSEKEEPING

A reminder that now members will receive a renewal notice by post in the month before their membership expires. Reminders will no longer be e-mailed. If the membership renewal has not been received after three months, a final notice will be sent through the post, which will point out that, if the membership has not been renewed within one month, it will be considered as a resignation. If you are unsure about the status of your membership, just sent us a message.

We are still looking for the owner of the email address hatzis.esc@gmail.com. Please check your email address books and let us know if you can help.

IS CONTESTING FAIR?
Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH #1073

We haven't had much success in getting members aroused to write about something that has appeared in FISTS Down Under. So here are some iconoclastic thoughts about contesting, one of the main interests of radio amateurs. We would like to know your thoughts about this?

Most sports have handicapping rules to make it fairer for all contestants. However, amateur radio has no such rules to make contesting fair.

Various mechanisms are allowed that make a mockery of considering this as a sport.

The maximum power output by amateurs is controlled by the authorities of each country. So some contestants are allowed huge power differential over others. One could be even cynical and suggest that a lot of stations disregard the local regulations anyway. Other operators are restricted to limited power because they do not wish to inconvenience neighbours with RF interference.

Antennas are frequently limited by the size of the station owner's property. Additionally, local authorities place constraints on the height and size of masts and antennas. So a contestant who is limited to a low wire antenna is contesting with others who have masts and antennas that are massive engineering projects, qualifying for the Guinness Book of Records!

The length of a contester's call sign is another inequality. In a big CW contest, a short call sign is a big advantage time-wise. Those from countries with a single character prefixes are at an advantage over the bulk of countries with two character prefixes. In addition, suffixes can be manipulated by applying for single letter suffixes. This is normally on a first-come, first-served basis. So it is likely that the majority will miss out on this option.

Computer controlled CW contest operation has become the norm. So the contester who operates manually is again at a disadvantage.

Wouldn't be interesting if contest stations were limited to barefoot operation of power up to 100 Watts into a simple dipole and that CW contesters were limited to manual keying, all using their regular call sign.

What do you think?

DEVELOPING CW SKILLS

Ken Fuller, VK4KF, FISTS #15150

I thought you might find it interesting to know what we are doing to develop CW, here initially on The Brisbane Bayside.

We are proceeding on with our program of developing CW skills in our community. The focus of the approach is the testing and awarding of a certificate of competency at receiving CW at a wide range of CW speeds from 5 to 40 wpm say. We are developing a Club Certificate similar in concept to that used by the Canadians. We are going to add in some of the club Icons and water mark Iconic art work making it a colourful item people will be proud to put up on the shack wall. The intention is that it would be colourful and cost about \$5 to produce and that would be the only cost to successful candidates. Teaching and testing it is intended would be seen as a free service by the club to whoever wishes to join the CW program. We are telling people that the program we are using is the NZART "Teach" and members have started down loading it. They can of course use any tool that does the job.

We have a blind member and with his also blind partner are looking into if they can use the "Teach" program using some of their text to voice audio programs. This will be challenge but we are sure we will find some way of completing their training and certification.

Our conclusion is that the CW certification approach is something best developed at club level. Our program approach was given a road test at a technical meeting last week and I was very pleased at the number of the amateurs, new and old, who expressed interest at having a go at getting a certificate of competency. We have a CW group and they will be the mastering group setting up the training and testing arrangements. We have in mind having regular opportunities for testing at club meetings with earphones and computer with randomly selected texts played through "Teach".

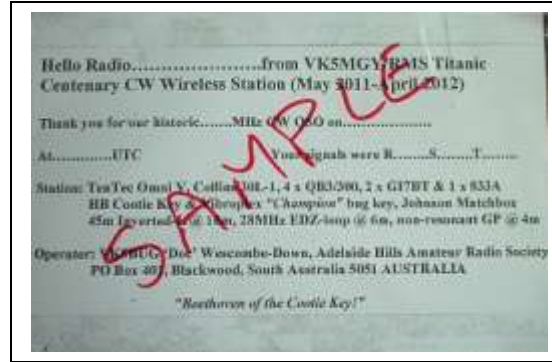
While we are approaching the project with optimism we are aware that there will be stumbling blocks. However the experience will be useful to the wider amateur radio community and when we get going we will let other clubs know about what we are doing and how we went about the program. We will tell tem about our successes and failures.

We are working on ways by which the old time CW brass pounder people can be given identification and recognition in the scheme. This recognition can be of a local or regional or national fist

Hope this is of interest. I think this Certificate of Competency approach seems to be filling a void and will be important in developing the CW skills and participation.

We have started to look at some of the Pacific Expeditions using CW with a bit more interest.
Regards - Ken Fuller, VK4KF, Bayside District Amateur Radio Society CW group

RECENT OPERATION OF VK5MGY by David, VK5BUG #14136 – The Resulting Sample QSL Card.



RECENT BLANK FIST QSL CARD (obtainable from Qslers@aol.com P.O. Box 184, NORTHAMPTON NN3 9JH England U.K.)



FISTS DOWN UNDER NEWSLETTER

Remember this is your newsletter!

Your articles, stories, photographs and items of interest are **URGENTLY** needed by your Editor. Once again there will be a prize for the best article received during the year ending with this issue. For the Runner Up, there will also be a Special Award of a FREE Subscription for one year to FISTS Down Under.

Articles and photographs may be submitted by either e-mail or post. Those submitted by post will be returned to the sender once dealt with. Our addresses are in the newsletter header – please use them! - Please think about it! - Start writing now for next year's prizes!

HELP!

COULD **CHRIS VK3QB /SM0YKS** PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR AND RESUBMIT HIS ARTICLE ON THE YJ0VK OPERATION USING MICROSOFT WORD. FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON I AM UNABLE TO COPY AND PASTE THE VERSION YOU SENT – THANKS, NIGEL