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 	<h2 style="text-align: center;">FISTS DOWN UNDER</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Newsletter July 2013</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">Editor &amp; 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 &amp; 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: &lt;<a href="mailto:fists-down-under@ihug.co.nz">fists-down-under@ihug.co.nz</a>&gt; Web site --: &lt;<a href="http://www.fistsdownunder.org">www.fistsdownunder.org</a>&gt;</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.

#### NEW MEMBER

Welcome to another member from Tasmania, **VK7CW-Steve Salvia #14164** who lives in Yolla, a rural community in north-western Tasmania, inland about 20 km south-west of Burnie. He tells us – I was first licensed in 1995 and was very active until mid 2001. For various reasons I was off the air for nearly 11 years. In 2011 I moved to VK7 and obtained the call sign VK7CW, becoming active once again in March 2012. From that time I have been very active on the bands. Many years ago I learned Morse code in the Army as a Radio Operator in RASIGS. Nearly all of my operating is in CW, which is my passion. As FISTS is the club for Morse Code Enthusiasts, I decided to join. Hope to see you all on the bands

#### MEMBERS' NEWS

Congratulations to **VK3XU-Drew #9118** for being inducted into the QRP Hall of Fame. Drew has written many articles on homebrew construction, which includes designs for a number of CW transceivers and information on CW operating.

Many thanks to the following members who included a donation when sending their subscriptions – **VK7TW-Justin #9077; VK4ZW-Ray #9681, ZL1ARB-Peter #9658, ZL1PC-Paul #9073, ZL3HAM-Tony #9015 and ZL2BCW-Mike #9079**

On receiving the Editor's Prize for 2012-2013, **ZL2AIM-Ian #9683** wrote to us: If only my English teacher from my school in Ireland would still be alive now, I would be happy to let him know that all his teaching of the poetry of WB Yeats, his making us learn large chunks of Shakespeare etc has done some good!

Sometimes I think I have keyboard diarrhoea and the ideas just come pouring out of my head. I am forever grateful that I learned to touch type at an early age.

I love to play with antennas - I don't have a technical background, but if I read of something that interests me, I play about with the idea and see if it works for me. Baluns and ununs fascinate me although I confess to not knowing the technology behind them. So I will build them and experiment to see what works in my situation.

We live in a beautiful country and the bonus for me is to be outside and operating a radio. Of course I prefer to use QRP, but if that is not successful, I will add more power. It is amazing how many people that walk past an outdoor station stop and ask what I am up to. This allows me to share my love of our hobby with others.

I am lucky in so far as my CW examiner back in 2000 encouraged me to get stuck into using CW. It did take me a while to shake off the fun of SSB, but once into CW - I was hooked!

Being a member of Fists (as well as other like minded CW clubs) allows me to meet with similar minded folk over the air. That is what unzips my banana!

**VK5BUG-David #14136** also wrote on receiving notice of his being recognised as the runner-up for the FDU Editor's Prize 2012-2013. *(Edited to remove personal information.)*

Thank you very much & I am thrilled to have that news. - You may find it hard to believe, but I had just this moment sat down at my laptop with my FISTS Renewal Advice by my side to do the EFT of my subs.

I was not aware of the Editor's Prize at all, so this has come as quite a surprise. I write a lot, mostly things educational, and have contributed to AR magazine here in Oz on and off since 1975. Next year marks my 50th anniversary operating CW on the amateur bands and I accept this prize as an early celebration!! Hi Hi

As a Navy op & Marconi graduate from the 60s, I guest operated from VK3CDR VK5MM & VK8DI before picking up my own call sign, and here I am still!

FYI & in an attempt to raise the profile of VHF CW activity over here, I have recently finished the design of several 2m versions of "VK5BUGCatcher Loop" aeralis, based on the EDZ-Loop to which you referred (See AHARS Newsletter, March 2013). <<http://ahars.com.au/newsletters/20130321%20March%202013.pdf>>

This weekend I am commencing on air 6m trials of the original 10m EDZ-Loop as a 2.5 wavelength non-resonant loop for 6m operation. - I shall certainly put together another article on these for the FDU newsletter.

Congratulations to ZL3PAH-Phil #14103 who was recently elected to the NZART Council. This personal profile appeared in the May/June edition of "Break In".

I am Phil Holliday ZL3PAH, 66, councillor for the Midland region and live in Sumner, Christchurch, I was co-opted onto council last year after a Midland Region councillor stepped down and was elected at the last election.

My intention in standing for council was to use the skills I have to ensure that NZART adopts prudent financial management and engages in longer terming and in setting a strategy and actions in place which will allow NZART to continue and prosper into the future.

I have been licensed for 48 years, first as G3UVX and since 1990 as ZL3PAH when I came with my family to Christchurch.

I am a keen HF operator, mostly CW, am on the air almost every day, love contesting and am a founder of the ZL3X Quake Contesters Group.

My hobby led to a degree in electronics and in my professional life have an electronics and software design company which I sold to a UK company in 2000. I then invested in several technology companies and have just sold the last one to a large US Fortune 100 company. I am now semi-retired but work part time in the early stage company and venture capital space.

My other interests include cooking (not bad), music (rock, b flamenco) The Crusaders (very one-eyed), our dogs (noisy) and my and family (who are fabulous).

**VK4HZX-Graham #14145** has reported that he has a new call sign – **VK4PMM**

Congratulations to **VK2KJJ-Knud #9689** on receiving a certificate for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the CW section of the 2013 Harry Angel 80 metre Sprint held on 4 May 2013. The annual event is organised by the **Redcliffe and Districts ARC (FISTS #9066)**. – He also appears in the current top ten in the WIA Contest Champion VK4PJ Trophy

The Redcliffe club is also sponsoring the Redcliffe City Award.

The award is in two sections. Section A. for VK & ZL only and Section B. for all other call signs.

For VK or ZL amateur radio station or short wave listener, you are required to score 10 points, which is made up of contacts with members of Redcliffe and District Amateur Radio Club (1 point each) and the club station VK4RC (4 points).

The application for this award should be accompanied by a certified log extract, signed by 2 other licensed amateurs showing date, time, frequency, call sign and location of stations worked and enclose either \$A 10.00 or 10 IRC, and send to THE AWARDS MANAGER, REDCLIFFE and Districts Amateur RADIO CLUB, PO BOX 20 WOODY POINT QLD 4019, AUSTRALIA or email it to the clubs website <http://www.redclifferradioclub.org.au> or just type in Redcliffe radio club into your search engine for all the details.

**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.**

These are due by 30 July 2013; some are overdue: -

**9000 - 9003 - 9012 - 9015 - 9023 - 9033 - 9053 - 9055 - 9078 - 9080 - 9609 - 9611 - 9620 - 9677 - 9679 - 9690 - 14121 - 14129 - 14130 - 14137 - 14138 - 14140 - 14145 - 14146 - 14147**

Some members use an organisation's email forwarding service e.g. <zl2xyz@nztart.co.nz>. This disguises the member's actual email address. If for any reason an email to that member is rejected, the address showing is not the one or the forwarding service. Consequently it may not be possible for us to identify the member.

We are currently receiving rejection notices for <ajfcollins.c@gmail.com>. We do not have that address in our newsletter distribution list. – If any of our readers knows AJF Collins, (who is not a FISTS Down Under member), could you please ask him to contact us?

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

These are some of the CW contest/event offerings in July 2013, most of which will be of more interest to our northern hemisphere readers. Thanks to WA7BNM Contest Calendar [\\_www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html](http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html)>

RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z - 2359Z, Jul 1
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z - 2030Z, Jul 1
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z - 0300Z, Jul 2
MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint	2300Z, Jul 4 to 0300Z, Jul 5
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	0000Z, Jul 6 to 2359Z, Jul 7
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jul 6 to 1500Z, Jul 7
FISTS Summer Sprint	0000Z - 0400Z, Jul 13
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jul 13 to 2400Z, Jul 14
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 13 to 1200Z, Jul 14
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z - 0230Z, Jul 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z - 0300Z, Jul 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z - 0200Z, Jul 24
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 27 to 1200Z, Jul 28

This list of FISTS activities in July 2013 is extracted from [www.fists.co.uk/activitiescalendar.htm](http://www.fists.co.uk/activitiescalendar.htm)

5 July 2013	Tynwald Day	14:00 - 17:00 UTC
14 July 2013	EU Ladder	14:00 - 16:00 & 18:00 - 20:00 UTC
14 July 2013	Bastille Day	14:00 - 17:00 UTC
28 July 2013	EU Ladder	14:00 - 16:00 & 18:00 - 20:00 UTC

### SHACK VISIT

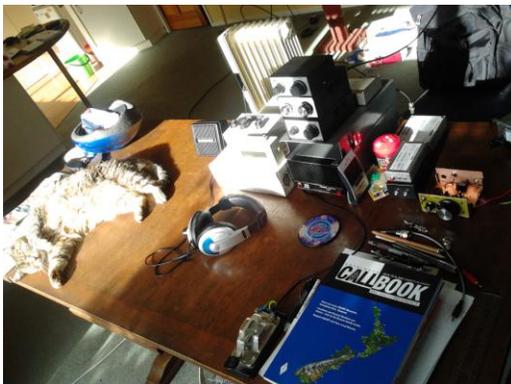
#### **My Flexible Shack – ZL3GIL - Gilbert #14102**

I was first licensed in 1987 as ZL2TDQ but I never transmitted a single squeak under that call sign. In 2005 after some idle internet trawling and the discovery of a stack of old Break-In magazines at a book fair I had to remind myself that I had enough know - how to assemble my own radio equipment. The only thing really holding me back from building a plethora of radio circuits was that I didn't know Morse code. Downloading Gary Bold's excellent Teach program from the NZART website steered me in the right direction. At this time I went to renew my long lapsed licence and was allocated the call sign ZL3UJZ. After about two years of practising with the Teach program I was delighted to tune in one evening to a QSO on 80m between two local operators and was amazed to be able to make sense of their dits and dahs. One of these operators was Fred Small ZL3FS and on 13 Sept 2008 Fred helped me break the ice with my first on - air CW QSO. Fred is SK now and I've chosen a vanity call sign but I hope that every QSO I have reflects the patience and courtesy that Fred showed me for that first CW contact.



At this QTH in Christchurch, New Zealand, the workshop is quite separate from the operating room. The workshop contains various components of both the through hole and the surface mount variety. I also have two (count them!) valves which I'll be using to assemble my 15m CW transmitter for the upcoming Sputnik anniversary which occurs in October each year. There's just the cat and me at this QTH so I have a great deal of freedom when it comes to spreading the radio circuits throughout the house. The back yard doesn't suffer too badly from the two inverted vee dipoles. One inverted vee is cut for 80m and hasn't been pruned for over a year so that's due for a pre - winter tweak. The other inverted vee is cut for 40m and I've marked 30m and 20m fold over points on it. It's setup for 40m most of the time, but occasionally I fold the points over for brief forays onto the other two bands. I prefer to use my homebrew equipment wherever I can. I do have a modicum of commercial equipment:

- NGC15C 15m CW/SSB xcvr for checking the international beacons on
- ICOM IC560 multimode 6m xcvr (awaiting RSM approval to operate 50 - 51MHz at time of writing)
- 2m and 70cm handhelds for local repeater and National System access



The photo of my living room table shows the nerve centre of my HF communications. I've assembled and now enjoy using the Small Wonder rigs for 80m, 40m, and 30m. The SW80 has been deployed for several contests and a couple of Straight Key nights as well as many, many rag chews. I've also built a RockMite rig for each of these bands but they haven't had their maiden voyages yet as I'm saving them for when I travel out of the city into areas with less QRM ; - ) I also have a Cary regenerative receiver for 160m which been a delight to use in these winter months. My Queen's Birthday weekend project this year was the Berrow xcvr for 20m. Both the Cary and the Berrow are available as kits from Walford Electronics in the UK and are well worth considering if you're looking to dabble in some home brewing.

The RockMites sit atop a Tait T286 PSU which is also used to power up the MKARS80 80m SSB xcvr which is located in the photo close to Her Highness and the MST400 40m SSB xcvr (not pictured here). I built the SWR meter from an article seen in 'Radio and Electronics Cookbook' by George Brown M5ACN but I'm waiting for the public library to tell me when they've retrieved the book from the central library. The M6.3 seismic event of Feb 2011 gave the library shelves what for and I believe they're still sifting through the many thousands of tomes.



The key is a Hi Mound HK - 706 and there is a better photo of it in the FISTS Key Gallery. One day I hope to acquire one of the Supreme keys for some top quality brass pounding ☺

As you'll see from the photo, my operating desk/table contains other useful accessories such as pens and pencils galore, the coffee coaster, and a wee plastic jar of chocolate confectionery which are handy for when the chef is on strike hi hi.

Also shown is my furry radio buddy, Stella, who is not licensed. Her excuse is she never had the Latin. The old adage has it that "You can lead a horse to water but you cannot make him drink". The photo below shows that you can lead a cat to the straight key but.....

## FISTS AWARDS

FISTS North America has sent us this update about some of the FISTS awards.

From what we heard in Dayton, people want more reasons to get on the air. We are working on an award that will be announced July 1 (still working out the loopholes and details), but to hold people over until then, we've decided to offer endorsements on some of the awards to stimulate interest.

The FISTS Worked All States is now available with a single - band endorsement. For those with a WAS, endorsement stickers will be sent for the bands worked (all bands count as long as the contact is 2xCW). Contacts must have been made on or after June 1, 2013.

The Rag Chewers Certificate is now available with single - band endorsements. Again, the contacts must be made after June 1, 2013 and be 2XCW. Endorsement stickers will be sent to those with existing Rag chewer Certificates.

Now that the Anniversary Celebration is over, the Anniversary award versions 2 and 3 have gone away, and version 1 has been renamed the Perpetual Prefix Award, since there is no ending date to it. To encourage more activity, starting June 1st, 2013, prefix endorsements are now available for the Perpetual Prefix Award.

In addition to the basic award requirements, Prefix Endorsements will be issued for the following increments, 50, 100, and 150 prefixes. Logs for these Prefix Endorsements must have all QSOs shown, including ALL QSOs used for the original Prefix Award.

\* 50 Prefix Endorsement issued as follows;

Work 5 different prefixes in each of the 0 - 9 numbered call areas in addition to the original required 25 prefixes, for a total of 30 different prefixes in each 0 - 9 numbered call area. Total QSOs in the log will be 300.

\* 100 Prefix Endorsement issued as follows;

Work 10 different prefixes in each of the 0 - 9 numbered call areas in addition to the original required 25 prefixes, for a total of 35 different prefixes in each 0 - 9 numbered call area. Total QSOs in the log will be 350.

\* 150 Prefix Endorsement issued as follows;

Work 15 different prefixes in each of the 0 - 9 numbered call areas in addition to the original required 25 prefixes, for a total of 40 different prefixes in each 0 - 9 numbered call area. Total QSOs in the log.

We considered making working FISTS members a requirement for the Prefix Endorsements, but it is difficult enough to just find someone on the air to work - and if there are enough FISTS trying for the endorsements, they will run into each other on the air anyway. Plus, looking just for FISTS prefixes

on the air comes off as elitist, and causes more number chasing, because many of our hard - core number chasers won't answer someone if they aren't on their list of FISTS members.

This way if they need their prefix, they will make the contact and hopefully tell them about the award and a bit about FISTS. Plus, I always hear "where 999\*are all the FISTS?" and by not requiring FISTS numbers for this endorsement, it takes care of that problem since they don't have to find a FISTS member to work toward the requirement.

In keeping with the rules of the original award, the Rag Chewers and FISTS WAS have to be QSOs between FISTS members

More details will be posted on <http://www.fists.org> as they develop.

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### TRAWLING THE WEB

Check out the questions and answers in this Trade Me posting - <http://www.trademe.co.nz/a.aspx?id=597849130>

A couple of complementary YouTube videos that show rebuilding a broken straight key: -

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJTtJ7Hq\\_88](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJTtJ7Hq_88) and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mMg179Qr2g>

