


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

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.

SILENT KEY ZL1VS / ZL5AI

It is with deep regret that I have to inform members of the passing of Bill Deverall, ZL1VS / ZL5AI ex FISTS 9603 on the 9th December, 2011. Bill had been ill for sometime and actually retired from FISTS last June on the grounds of ill health. Condolences have been sent to his wife Henrietta (Ettie) and their family.

DOWN UNDER MEMBERS' NEWS

We appreciate the donations made by **ZL1MH-Mike #9038**; **ZL2TX-Nigel #9040**; **ZL1PD-Rod #9623**; **ZL2AIM-Ian #9683** and **VK3JY-Steve #9630**

Recent awards by the NZ Old Timers Club included 60 year certificate – **ZL1IH-Ken #9094**, and 50 year certificate to **ZL3CE-Ian #9099**. Congratulations to them both

We received this message from **ZL1CDX-Turner # 9048** just after Christmas. Have all the Fists members gone into hibernation? I've called on our usual frequencies to no avail, yet I have unwittingly worked 30+ but they cannot be counted for awards as membership numbers and any other info pertaining to fists were not exchanged on air. When I was first licensed I was introduced to log.eqf and being a one fingered typist it took me 6months to put 2 years log entries in. I think you might guess what's coming - yes the computer crashed and I lost the lot. I vowed never again would I use a logger UNTIL - I saw on the net this ham radio log called **MicroLog** which is "Free" Not being too PC savvy I was wary, however it is easy to use and any problems you email the author and within 24 hrs you have a comprehensive reply. It does some amazing things one of them keeping track of all sorts of things including fist members worked, hence this email. I only wish I had this when I first joined the club, anyway you might want to have a butchers and check it out.

MicroLog can be found at <<http://www.wa0h.com/>>

OTHER MEMBERS'NEWS

JL3AMK-Harry #15002 reports that 17 audio files (mp3) have been appended to the FISTS East Asia library. - You can download these files at <http://www.feacw.net/snd/index.htm> or <http://www.fists-ea.org/snd/index.htm>

G3KMG-David #124 reports on a confrontation with Mother Nature: - I bought a 60ft/18m collapsible fibre glass pole over a year ago with view to experimenting with verticals for winter work on the lower bands. The ground was snow covered all last winter so nothing happened. I finally erected it on Tuesday - and yes - I could, after attaching the guys, 'walk it up' unaided! I configured it as a 40m ground plane. It tested OK. On Wednesday it got very windy. I wound down the tower and checked the vertical. The top section was moving, but it seemed secure. I checked the forecast. The winds were supposed to drop. However during the night the wind woke us up, it was so strong. When I eventually got up the mast was down. The gales had been the strongest in years! The guys held but the lower section failed half way between the lower guys and ground. The top section failed just above the top guys. The mast was guyed as instructed, but it is clearly not up to coping with excess wind speeds.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z Feb 3
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z Feb 4 to 2400Z Feb 5
Black Sea Cup International	1200Z Feb 4 to 1159Z Feb 5
AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z Feb 4
North American Sprint CW	0000Z-0400Z Feb 5
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z Feb 10
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprit CW	1100Z-1300Z Feb 11
Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z Feb 11 to 1200Z Feb 12
FISTS Winter Sprint	1700Z-2100Z Feb 11
AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z Feb 15
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z Feb 17
ARRL Inter. DX Contest CW	0000Z Feb 18 to 2400Z Feb 19
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z Feb 24
UBA DX Contest CW	1300Z Feb 25 to 1300Z Feb 26
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1700Z Feb 26

Antarctic Activity Week

The first teams and individuals are already lining up to be active in the 9th Antarctic Activity Week (AAW) that will take place February 20-26th. - This is an all bands, all modes, world-wide amateur radio event celebrating the international scientific work in Antarctica.

Certificates may be obtained from the WAP (World Antarctic Program) using the QSLs from the WAP Reference Numbered stations worked. For more details see: <http://www.waponline.it/Default.aspx?tabid=113>

TRAWLING THE WEB

VK Classifieds – Australia’s #1 radio related classifieds - <http://www.vkclassifieds.com.au/>

If you are currently a ham radio builder, or interested in becoming one, the Hamradio-builder mailing list has been created with you in mind. See - <http://www.uk.amsat.org/3459>

Another site for home constructors: <http://diana.db.net/mailman/listinfo/hamradio-builder>

An Interesting tutorial on HF radio wave propagation:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=YqmvPWRyW3I

FROM OUR MAILBOX

Good morning!

My name is Cassandra Smith and I am a 10th grade Social Studies teacher for some wonderful students at Brighter Futures Charter School in California. We are currently learning about Communication and The Morse Code and I just wanted to let you know that we have been using your page, <http://www.fistsdownunder.org/links.htm> . It's been so helpful for one of our projects in class. My students just absolutely loved your site!

One of my students, Samantha, came to me with another resource that was very helpful:

"Communication Across the Nation - The History of the Telegraph"
<http://www.nearfieldcommunication.org/history-of-the-telegraph.html>

She thought it would be a perfect addition to your site of already valuable resources! (She is always going above and beyond...such a great kid!)

Would you mind adding it to your resource list? I, too, think it is a great resource and I would love to show her that her hard work has paid off! I know that if she saw it up on your page she would be delighted!

P.S. I've decided that Samantha will be awarded with extra credit for her special find and a good deed done well, so please let me know if you decided to add it. :-)

Have a fantastic day!

Sincerely,
Cassandra Smith
csmith@brightfuturecs.org
www.brightfuturecs.org

Note: - "Communication Across the Nation" has been added to our link site and Samantha congratulated – Ed

OPERATING AWAY FROM HOME

By ZL2AOH-Ralph #1073

Establishing an amateur station at home often has its problems. Usually some compromise can achieve a workable convenient station. Added to which all the home comforts are readily at hand. However operating a station away from home can be a real challenge. Overcoming that and achieving operating success from the away station gives one a real buzz.

I have had the opportunity of working away from home on a number of occasions, and will explain how I managed.

This report covers 1995-6 when I spent a year living in a small town on the shores of the Seto Inland Sea. Although we were away for a full year, problems with the Japanese licensing authority meant that I did not receive a Japanese licence until less than three months before our departure. You can imagine the frustration this caused, although the local radio club invited me to all their meetings and allowed me to operate in a few events in which they participated. We had no common language but we got along very well; they are a great bunch of guys.

When the licence 7J5AAN eventually arrived I went looking for a transceiver that incorporated an automatic tuner and internal power supply so that all I needed to operate was a key, a microphone and an antenna. During my period of inactivity I had studied all the available rigs and found two that I thought would be ideal. One the Japan Radio JST-245 was only available in Japanese configuration with the Japanese band plan hard wired in. That wouldn't have suited operating after we returned back home. In addition it was rather expensive. The alternative was the ICOM IC-736 that had recently arrived on the market and that could be obtained in the international configuration. So I visited the main radio and electronics outlet in the nearest city, Tokushima. There after a good deal of haggling I ordered the IC-736, and a Himound HK-902 key. As part of the deal, they included an ICOM desk microphone and a pair of ICOM headphones. I also purchased a Diamond multi band dipole antenna. This worked well on all bands, except for some undetermined reason on 20 metres. This was resolved by the kind loan of a 20 metre dipole from one of the local hams. These antennas were secured to the eaves of the building and to two disused power poles on the boundary of the property. The maximum height would have been about five metres. Tuning the Diamond antenna proved

somewhat time-consuming, as it meant lowering and raising the antenna to very carefully snip off small lengths of wire tails on the chokes. Things weren't made easier in that the instructions were in Japanese!

Being within a short distance from the sea shore, the ground was very sandy. I approached a nearby builder for a length of pipe for an earth rod. (This request was done by the use of drawings.) When he realised what I needed it for he produced a commercially produced copper earthing rod with a wire connection fused to it - gratis. The "shack" was on the first floor of the building with an air conditioning unit attached to the outside wall. I placed the earthing rod immediately below it and doused it with a saline solution made from a kilo of salt. This was kept continuously moist by condensation dripping from the unit. I believe this was the main reason for the success of the installation.

I worked over 35 countries in the few weeks I was operating there. This included regular nightly skeds with Bill Hamer ZL2CD, now sadly SK. Working 40 metres was a problem because of the large number of Japanese stations using the band. This was alleviated by the use of the narrow CW filter on the rig. Sometimes the band would be eerily quiet until a station in, say Vietnam, called CQ. Immediately there would be a huge response, sounding like a swarm of bees. One thing I found particularly interesting was having skeds with a group of delightful children at a school in the Chinese city of Fuzhou. I remained in touch with them for some time after I returned home and was able to send them some manuals that weren't available in China at that time.

I enjoyed operating in Japan and have a great respect for their operating skills and discipline, and for their friendship, courtesy and generosity.

Unfortunately the bureaucracy of the Japanese Post Office that administers radio licensing didn't make getting started very easy. In addition to the main licence fee, there was an inspection fee levied by the postal authorities in the JA5 call district. I didn't see an inspector and the local hams said that they had never been visited!

FISTS 25TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO AND T-SHIRT

The following notice has appeared on the US FISTS web site and is reproduced here for information of our members. The postage rate reported is for US members. We are in correspondence with Nancy and will inform you all when an inclusive price for Down Under members is determined for the shirts plus postage and how to go about ordering shirts.

To celebrate FISTS 25th anniversary, we are having new limited-edition t-shirts. They are heather gray, a bit darker gray than the typical "athletic gray" color, sort of a light charcoal - not black. They come in sizes Small-XXXLarge and cost \$7 plus \$3 postage. If you order more than one, I can put it in a flat-rate Priority box for \$5 total. A box should hold 2-4 shirts depending on the size of the shirt. The larger flat-rate box is \$10 (prices are going up mid-January, so the postage cost may change after that).

The four-color anniversary logo is on the front, no pocket and no printing on the back. Any questions, contact Nancy WZ8C.

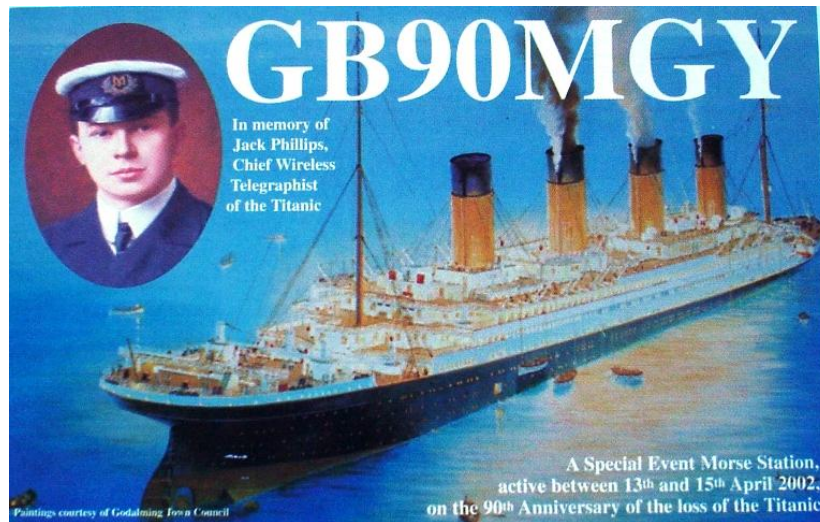


Due to the cost of polo shirts (estimated at about \$17) we aren't ordering any yet, but if there is any interest, let WZ8C know and we'll get some. The logo will be screened on rather than embroidered to keep down the cost. Let WZ8C know if you want a pocket or not on the front of the polo, it seems most people want a pocket, but this adds to the price of the shirt, so keep that in mind.

RMS TITANIC 1912 - 2012

In April this year the centenary of the Titanic disaster will be commemorated

Radio communication and the bravery of the ship's radio officers play an important part in the story. – (They are John George "Jack" Phillips, aged 25 and his deputy Harold Sidney Bride aged 21. In April 1990 the 90th Anniversary of the Sinking was commemorated, resulting in quite a bit of activity. Shown below is the QSL Card from this event. As the radio installation aboard RMS Titanic was "Marconi" and her operators were Marconi men, she was issued the call sign "MGY". Later as the number of ship increased all ships were issued four letter call signs whilst aircraft much more numerous, had five letter call signs.



The Centenary event promises to be even bigger with many special call signs being aired. I am quite expecting GB100MGY to be the call sign, although this has not been confirmed as yet. FISTS have already sponsored a Titanic 24 Hour Sprint on Sunday the 15th April 2012. Details are as follows: -

TITANIC 24 HOUR SPRINT

SUNDAY, 15TH APRIL 2012 – (0001 to 2359 U.T.C).

All licensed Amateur Bands **except the WARC Bands.**

Rules: - Recognising the 100th anniversary of the loss of the RMS Titanic on the 15th April 1912. This event is to be a standard exchange, between stations.

Scoring: - 10 Points for any Titanic special events station
5 Points for a FISTS HQ Station (GX0IPX, GX3ZQS, MX5IPX, VK2FDU, ZL6FF, JL3YMV, KN0WCW)
3 Points for a FISTS Affiliated Club Station
2 Points for a FISTS Member
1 Point for a Non Member

Logs: - To include Date/Time/Call/Name/QTH/QRG/FISTS No/or Non Member Points.

Entries by post to **R.D. Walker, M0BPT, FISTS P.O. Box 6743, TIPTON DY4 4AU ENGLAND U.K.** or by e-mail to m0bpt@yahoo.co.uk <http://yahoo.co.uk> in Excel/csv/tabbed word document format if possible. To be received **no later than 30th April 2012.**

SPECIAL CALL SIGNS THAT HAVE ADVISED THEY WILL BE OPERATING

VO1MGY: - Admiralty House Communications Museum Mount Pearl, Newfoundland, Canada

EI100T: - Cobh (Cork) Eire - 14th to 16th April.

So apart from many other events planned to mark the passing of 100 years, radio amateurs are planning their own special event. Details are being developed and will be promulgated closer to the event. FISTS Down Under and all the other FISTS Chapters will be participating and we will hopefully have the FDU club calls active. We are now asking for volunteers to operate **ZL6FF** and **VK2FDU**

Those wishing to operate using the FISTS Special Calls please contact Ralph (for ZL6FF) and Chris (for VK2FDU) respectively as soon as possible.

VK4BCM-Bevan #9043 will be co-ordinating our participation – He reports: - I met with the Maritime Museum CEO and had a great reception. They want to participate on site at the docks in Brisbane River. They have a dry docked ship "Diamantina" which has radio gear on board. I am now to contact the Brisbane Amateur Radio Club to see if they wish to be involved. They have their meetings there. The CEO suggested that we may like to set up a rig on Jessica Watson's boat "Ella's Pink Lady" which is also on their docks. Jessica is the young lass who at 16 years of age circumnavigated the world solo last year. That should be a huge attraction.

Bevan writes: - It was fortuitous that Guglielmo Marconi had experimented with marine radio and proved its worth before the sailing of this most famous ship. For, had he not had it installed on board, it is likely that the fate of this ship would not have been known to the world, and another 705 hapless lives would have been lost. The heroic actions of the two operators are an inspiration to all marine radio officers who followed in their footsteps. Since that time hundreds of thousands of lives have been saved through this medium.

Unfortunately Jack drowned and his body was not recovered. Harold survived and was able to tell the story of how they had continued transmitting information long after the Captain had told them to abandon ship. Harold had severely frostbitten and crushed feet. He continued transmitting survivor information from on board the Carpathia.

We, in the Amateur Radio fraternity are privileged to be able to use this medium for pleasure and experience the satisfaction of contacting someone (often a stranger) on the other side of the world, and having a conversation.

Brisbane will be active in this event from Queensland's Maritime Museum, Southbank and we look forward to contacting CW operators from everywhere. Of course to gain maximum points during this contest, Make sure you join FISTS now.

We are looking at having special QSL cards available for the day.

It is up to us to make sure that Morse code is preserved for future generations to know about. Learn it, practice it, use it, **TEACH IT!**

PRESERVE MORSE CODE --- JOIN FISTS TODAY!

