



Auckland Branch 02, NZART

NEWSLETTER

August 2011



BBQ

on Saturday, 20th August 2011
at 1230—1300 hours
at Clubroom

To be followed by:

General Meeting

at 1330 hours

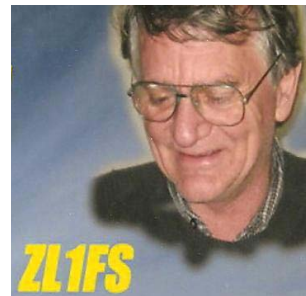
To be followed by:

Videos

Happy Flyer RDF and 1987 Hamvention.

From President Steve, ZL1FS

Montgomery Cup: At last, we have located this cup. Gwynne tells the story of how it took him four years to locate this cup after we first won it. This time it is at Papakura Branch who were winners from 2003 to 2008. Evidently it did not get passed on to Whangarei who won it in 2009 and 2010. Papakura have sent it to an engraver to bring it up to date. We have invited their Secretary, Ian Ashley ZL1AOX to present it to us at our General Meeting on 17th September. This will be a photo opportunity for the JWFD team. Afterwards he will also address us on the subject of the Satellite being built by AM-SAT-ZL. We expect to have a big turn out. The BBQ runs from 1230 to 1300 hours.



Fox Hunt training: Last month the weather was patchy on the day. Besides it would have been treacherous to venture into the fields, for they were so waterlogged. Nevertheless, we did a white board exercise in the clubroom. We now understand the techniques of triangulation and the importance of route planning so as to find the foxes in the shortest possible time. This beats "bush-bashing" towards each fox. We have misplaced six 80m sniffers and have turned the clubroom upside down in an attempt to find them. Tell Wallace (home phone 575-6383) if you know where they are. For he is intending to set another event before the end of the year.

General Meeting: There will be a clash with Lighthouse weekend on 20th August. After our formal meeting, I shall put on some videos that I have ordered from NZART. Last Saturday I showed an interesting video about the flying boat service that New Zealand pioneered starting in 1913. The titles I shall show are: **Happy Flyer RDF** and **1987 Hamvention**.

73

Steve, ZL1FS
021- 0226 - 4981

Remembrance Day Contest

Saturday 13th August, 08:00 UTC for 24 hours.

This contest commemorates the Amateurs who died during World War II and is designed to encourage friendly participation and help improve the operating skills of participants. It is held on the weekend closest to the 15th August the date on which hostilities ceased in the southwest Pacific area.

Amateurs in each VK call area will endeavour to contact amateurs in other VK call areas, ZL and P29 on all bands except WARC bands. On 1.8, 28, and 50 MHz and above, entrants may also contact other amateurs in their own call area.

Copy of the rules in PDF and other information from the site:

<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/rdcontest/>

Warm up that coax, shake out the spiders, check your logging software is up to date hear and you on air !!!
[Posted by Phillip ZL2TZE on ZL Hams 3 August]



Farol do Forte do Cavalo - Sesimbra

Lighthouse of the Fort of the Horse

International Lighthouse

Weekend, 20 – 21 August

40, 20,15 and 10 meters, SSB

See information at:

<http://www.arvm.org/illw11.html>

and there is an English Translation function.



AUCKLAND BRANCH, NZART (inc.)

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Date / Time / Place: Tuesday 2nd August 1935 hours; Clubroom.

Attendees: Steve Miller ZL1FS (Chairman); Wallace Bottomley ZL1WAL (Secretary / Treasurer);
Gwynne Rowe ZL1AAR, Ray Chapman ZL1AJR; Japie ZL1JJN
and visitor Selwyn Ross, ZL1BRC.

Apologies: Ian ZL2ATD.

Sustained ZL1WAL / ZL1JJN

Minutes of the previous Committee meeting on 5th July 2011 as published in the newsletter

Taken as read and accepted ZL1WAL / ZL1JJN

Correspondence In:

- Newsletters from neighbouring branches: North Shore, Franklin, Papakura;
- Selwyn ZL1BRC reporting progress in tracking RFI in the clubroom and identifying the power supply of the Woosh modem.
- Selwyn offering an article for the newsletter. This includes a link to Morse teaching and sunspot videos.
- NZ POST asking for applications for their community postal subsidy.

Correspondence Out:

- To Committee reporting discussions Wallace had had with Brian Scarborough and Auckland City Leasing about our 'phone line problem. See later item on this subject.
- To Andrei ZL1TM asking for our website to be updated with Newsletters and the JWFD Contest result.
- To Papakura asking for the Montgomery Cup.

Approved ZL1AJR / ZL1WAL

Finance: The Treasurer presented the year to date report.

Received ZL1WAL / ZL1JJN

Expenses requiring approval for payment

- R Higgins – Lawns in July \$34.50
- Jeff Lowe ZL1TOU for use of his Woosh account Jan - June \$102.00
- Steve Miller ZL1FS for:
 - Sundry 80m antenna parts \$12.72
 - Curtain rod \$19.95
 - Petrol cost for ZL4AX's lecture \$20.00\$52.67
- Mrs Schrickel from the Estate consignment account \$77.50.

Approved ZL1FS / ZL1JJN

General business:

Reports

- **AREC:** This Branch has participated in (poorly run) net meetings. We have asked to be invited to any meetings whenever AREC matters are to be discussed by Auckland City Civil Defense.
- **Examinations:** There are three pupils on whom we are awaiting their readiness. (North Shore Branch is running another block course next month.)
- **Montgomery Cup:** Wallace reported that he had joined the Papakura Branch net and was told that they have it there. Secretary, Ian Ashby ZL1AOX is having it engraved (also with Whangarei's previous two years wins). Wallace suggested that Gwynne (and team) be photographed with it for our web page.
- **Certificates** have not yet been received. Secretary will enquire about these from the Contest Manager.
- **RFI:** The Committee thanks Selwyn for his effort in tracking the source of RFI that is regarded as unacceptable in our clubroom. Japie will supply a 5 v power supply to replace the Woosh modem's switch mode power supply. Priority is being given to get the phone line installed so as to replace Woosh.
- **Phone line:** Wallace read out a letter addressed to The Meadowbank Pony Club informing them of our intentions to strap the phone line to the lower wire of the boundary fence. It asks them to stipulate any measure we should take to ensure safety of the horses. Steve will attend the next Pony Club meeting and present this letter and seek their cooperation. A second letter addressed to Auckland City's Retail Leasing Department encloses the plan of the phone line route and asks for Consent. These letters were approved to be sent.
- Next, we shall meet with Scarbros to ask for the trench to be dug. We do not expect to be charged.
- **Tenure:** Selwyn reported that he had just come from a meeting whereat Auckland City described plans for Orakei Ward. There is a 3 year planning cycle that includes a new railway station from which a path will lead to Selwyn College. Park-and-ride or kiss-and-ride options are being considered in the Purewa valley. Wallace reported his conversation with Brian Scarborough who had the geotech report stating that the ground is too unstable for any development there. Our tenure will likely continue undisturbed.

Minutes of Committee Meeting (Continued)

- **Maintenance / projects**
 - **80m antenna.**
 - Steve – The Pony Club will be asked if we can reposition our pole at the east end on their fence line, so as to keep the antenna away from the influence of the metal roof of our clubroom.
 - Selwyn – To check that the coax needed for this is under the clubroom (where it should be already).
 - **Realignment of the beam**
 - Steve – in summer when the ground is firm for his truck.
 - **Painting the roof**
 - Steve / Graham – a summer job.
 - **Painting the walls**
 - Working bee – Ray ZL1AJR has given 10 litres of white acrylic paint.
 - **Battery replacement 200 amp hour**
 - Steve – Another possible source was suggested.
 - **Coax measuring,**
 - Ray has started labeling the coax. Steve offered to lend his mega.
 - **Printer sharing on LAN**
 - Wallace – Ethernet cables were supplied by Andrei ZL1TM.
 - **Internet:**
 - James – The Woosh line drops after a period (24 hours) of inactivity.
 - **Alarm and smoke detector**
 - Steve
 - **Surveillance**
 - Steve – George will obtain 2 cameras.
 - **Filing:**
 - Wallace – The cupboards have been cleared.
 - More duplicate magazines are about to be thrown out.
 - All the QST magazines on the west wall lower shelves will be stored in the filing cabinets, thus freeing up space so that the books on the upper shelves can be moved down and the ugly shelves removed.
 - **Junk**
 - Billy Leigh (a visitor) has taken some of the junk.
 - **Phone line**
 - Brian – after the conduit has been laid in the trench.
 - **Modify NZART 2m fox hunt gear**
 - Steve will charge the gel cell batteries before returning them for JOTA.
 - **80m sniffers**
 - Six sniffers cannot be found in the clubroom. Where are they? QSL
 - **New Sniffers.**
 - To be discussed again.
- **Remotely Operated Station:**
 - The band switching kitset has been built and tested. Next is the subject of available antennas for it.
 - A vertical all-band antenna was suggested for it. Japie is of the opinion that rather than compromise with a general purpose antenna, the Branch should have the best possible antennas (better than we would have at our own QTHs).
 - The operating manual needs to be edited (to be user-friendly) and could be put on our website.
- **Equipment disposal sales (junk).**
 - It was decided **not** to take any items to Hamilton on 13th August. Rather we shall book a table at the Western Branch Sale on 1st November. It is expected that Suburban Branch will shortly announce a date for their sale (at which we were successful last year). Those intending to go to Hamilton could car-pool with Steve.
- **Program for General Meetings (Suggestions only until speakers are confirmed):**
 - 20th August (Lighthouse Weekend). Steve suggested that we order DVDs.
 - 17th September
 - Presentation of Montgomery Cup. Photograph opportunity for the 2011 team.
 - Satellite project / Software defined radio by Ian Ashley ZL1AOX.
 - 24th - 27th September Region 3 ARDF Championships are to be held at Maldon near Melbourne.
- **Planning for JWFD 2012:**
 - Gwynne said that he will not be available for the early part of February.
 - Selwyn intends to experiment with some alternative antennas to find a better take off angle for 40m so as to improve QSO with stations in the middle of the country at dawn when the critical frequency is low.
 - Selwyn stressed the importance of training our operators to seek all the multipliers.

Meeting closed 21:00 with supper provided by Ray ZL1AJR.

Morse learning program from <http://www.justlearnmorsecode.com/> was demonstrated by Selwyn.

Power supply 100 Amp constructed by Japie to the Marchwood design and fitted into a PC tower case, was shown.

Signed _____ Date _____
(Chairman)

AUCKLAND BRANCH, NZART (inc.)

General Meeting Minutes

On: Saturday, 16th July 2011 at 1340 hours

At: Branch clubrooms

Present: Steve ZL1LS (Chairman). Others are recorded in the attendance book.

Apologies: Japie ZL1JJN, Ian ZL2ATD, Bob ZL1AFU.

Sustained ZL1WAL/ ZL1FS

General Business:

- Minutes:** The minutes of the previous General meeting held on 18th June 2011 was taken as read (having been published in the July Newsletter).
 - Arising:**

The meeting was held on Saturday 18th June – not 16th as reported in the Newsletter.
Page 3 reference to Steve; his call sign is ZL1FS – not ZL1LS as reported in the Newsletter.
Accepted ZL1JJN / ZL1AAR
- Correspondence:**

As listed in the July newsletter under the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 5th July 2011.
A letter has since been written to Papakura Branch asking if they still have the Montgomery Cup (awarded to the winner of the Northern region CW and Phone section of the Jock White Memorial National Field Day Contest), won by them in 2008 and before that. (Our 'phone call to Allan Walker ZL1AW Secretary of Whangarei Branch (last year's winner) and a visit there was unfruitful.)
- Finance Report:** The Treasurer circulated the Report dated 5 July that was presented to the Committee. He stated that paid membership was now 41, the same as last year. Compared to budget (\$500.00 loss) the accounts are positive, though negligible maintenance has been done.

Accepted ZL1WAL /ZL1AAR

 - \$1,000.00 has been transferred from the Cheque account to the Fast Saver Account earning 3.15%.
 - Payment of Insurance Premium owing to State Insurance \$556.53 (being over \$300.00).
Approved ZL1FS /ZL1AJR

General Business:

- Selwyn pointed out that rarely are the Clubrooms opened by 10 am on Saturdays by a Committee member.
- VHF Group has a net every Sunday evening. Selwyn urged that our representation on that net would be advantageous to our Branch. Whereas we have no obligation to join their net, Wallace agreed that our presence on nets run by other Branches could improve our inter-branch communication. He said that he had gone through the Directory and listed each Branch's net times, summarized as follows:

Branches	
• HF nets on Sundays at 0900	14 — all at the same time !
• HF other times	9 — of which 5 were not heard last week
• VHF only	27
• No times stated	18
• In recess	<u>20</u>
• Total branches	<u>88</u> (Some branches run both HF and VHF nets).

Planning for JWFD in 2012: Selwyn suggested that the Committee should not leave this until the last minute.

Discussion followed about ways to improve our performance – if possible: This covered the topics of propagation phenomena, alternative antennas (for operation at dawn), and CW operators. Gwynne reminded us that we did well this year.

New Members: For the rest of the year, subs will be pro-rata. A student fee might be considered at the AGM.

80m Antenna: Progressing.

Coax cable: Ray ZL1AJR has been delegated the task of identifying, measuring and labeling the various lengths.

Batteries: Steve said that the gel cell batteries for the NZART 2m foxes had not been charged since the last event in April. The foxes have to be delivered to North Shore Branch in October for their JOTA event.

80m sniffers: The six sniffers cannot be found in the Clubroom.

Fox hunting Training: Recent rain made the ground too boggy and slippery to go outdoors. And it rained again. Steve used the white board to illustrate fox hunting techniques. A far reaching discussion followed about operation of the sniffers, rules of, and conventions at events. The afternoon was considered to be beneficial to all who attended.

Meeting closed at 1625 NZST

Any amateur with interest in learning Morse Code, either as a newcomer wanting only to identify beacons, or to receive fluently as a first step to actual CW working at any level, or as a rusty old timer seeking to revive old skills should find the following site useful:-

<http://www.justlearnmorsecode.com/>. This is a very friendly site which speaks for itself. Using it is intuitive and you are limited only by your own ingenuity. I carry around a downloaded copy on my laptop and can give demonstrations to members at the clubrooms or guidance from my home computer by telephone.

These next two links are derived from Solar Dynamics Observatory material and are short video links which should enhance your understanding of some solar processes on which HF radio propagation relies. However, as they are on YouTube, you should treat with considerable caution some of the adjacent material which your browser may deliver. Having said that, some of the adjacent links are very informative scientifically.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X67VMG3D6Vg&feature=feedu> This shows, by means of colour temperature/wavelength filtering, how features on the face of the Sun appear at the same time in different layers of the solar atmosphere.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oaBjfsoulao&feature=related> This is a recent movie clip covering one solar rotation (about 27 Earth days), showing recent dominant band of sunspot and similar activity in the northern latitudes of the Sun. It's a constantly changing scene, although at disappointingly low levels in terms of radio propagation.

For near realtime information the following sites are suggested:-

<http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/propagation.html> and <http://www.solarham.com/>

de Selwyn ZL1BRC

Intruder Watch Story

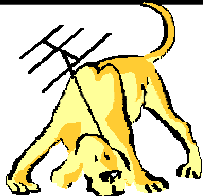
Well an interesting time has been had by all in the past week. A Radio Amateur in Northern California, inadvertently pushed a keyboard up to his keyer, which produced a stream of dots at 25 WPM for well over a week. An international effort from Region 3 bringing in Region 1 via the Intruderwatch and various posts to DX Clusters and Yahoo groups eventually resulted in the Radio Amateur being contacted via the ARRL in the USA. Signal reports were received from Europe, USA, Africa and Australia and New Zealand (who heard it first and raised the alarm).

The resultant HF DF hunt resulted in a solid triangulation on the USA states from Radio Amateurs from all over the world. Finally, we can only imagine a slightly embarrassed Radio Amateur within the US was contacted and the stream nicknamed "Dotty" ceased yesterday.

Excellent collaboration throughout the Intruderwatch organizations across Europe, USA and New Zealand, which could only have occurred with the support of the Radio Amateurs who participated in the hunt, providing signal reports. For a week the 18085.5 signal was an excellent HF beacon for propagation.

Another exciting tale from the NZART Monitoring Service - who says monitoring is boring?




[By John ZL1GWE in Infoline 7 August]



The Fox Hunting corner

de Wallace, ZL1WAL

- To find out more about ARDF (Fox hunting) see the 6 minute video. Cut and paste into your browser:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPLWCc_rDqk
- Lost** — six of our 80 metre sniffers
- Region 3 ARDF Championships are to be held at Maldon near Melbourne on 23rd through 28th September 2011.
See <http://r3.ardf.org.au>



**8TH IARU REGION 3
ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS**
Maldon Victoria Australia - 23rd to 28th of September 2011