



Auckland Branch 02, NZART

NEWSLETTER

July 2011



BBQ

on Saturday, 16th July 2011
at 1230—1300 hours
at Clubroom

To be followed by:

General Meeting

at 1330 hours

To be followed by:

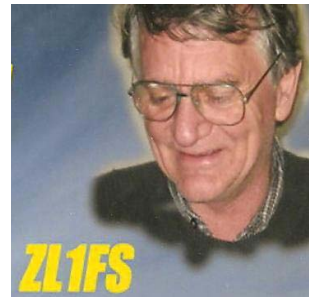
Training for Fox hunting

Bring a compass and batteries

From President Steve, ZL1FS

Montgomery Cup: We are trying to locate this trophy. Last year's winners (Whangarei) do not have it.

100 years of radio: I was approached by National Radio NZ to be interviewed by Bryan Crump in their weekly "Sound of New Zealand—100 years of Radio" programme. Last week's theme was "Amateur Radio in NZ". My thanks go to Vaughan Henderson ZL1TGC whom I considered to be the better interviewee. Hear him on: <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/nights/audio/2493162/community-radio-in-auckland>



Fox Hunt training: Hopefully the weather will be kinder this month for us to venture outdoors to up-skill ourselves in the techniques of triangulation rather than "bush-bash" towards each fox. In the two previous events, all foxes have been found by various people but not all by one person. As hounds, we have to be more cunning than these elusive foxes. This means we have to be able to read a map, be decisive about our route choice and move swiftly. Bring a compass and fresh batteries (9v for the 2m sniffers and 2 x AA batteries for the 80m sniffers).

73

Steve, ZL1FS
021- 0226 - 4981

How to DX — Guidelines

In just over a year and a half of being a ham, the only thing I've found that I can do for hours on end without getting bored is DXing.

I've found that many people claim that DXing is too hard, or that they don't have the equipment, or that QSLing is too expensive. I have one of the most basic setups a ham can have. I certainly don't have money to throw around, nor do I have the experience in ham radio to be an expert. So how did I end up with 182 countries?

DXing is something that EVERYONE can enjoy. And nobody says that you have to QSL to be a DXer. Many hams I talk to are DXers with over 200 countries but not a single QSL card to speak of. DXing is not hard. You simply need to remember these five, simple rules:

- 1) You Always listen before transmitting
- 2) You are Always courteous
- 3) There is always propagation to somewhere
- 4) Know your propagation
- 5) Be patient

If you already follow these five rules, you have 99% of what you need. For those who don't have unlimited time, a computer can be useful to pick up some DX spots. Some good spot sites are DXwatch.com, or DX summit. Your equipment matters very little for the first 50 to 75 countries. If you are very patient and willing to learn a little technique, you can stick with QRP to a wire for those earlier QSO's. But the easiest way to go is 100w plain transceiver and a Dipole or a good vertical.

There are excellent books out there - too many to name. Some good ones are the DXCC handbook by the ARRL, and "The complete DXer". Both are available from the ARRL.

While not necessary, an Extra class license helps. On 80, 40, 20, and 15 most of the good DX hangs out below the General class segment of the band. But I worked 138 countries with a General class license, and you can too. 17m and 20m will be your best bands for now, and 10m when the sunspots come back. And once the sunspot cycle kicks in again, even the techs can work DX on 10M. That's what I did and I got over 30 countries on ten meters in my first year.

QSLing can be easy. I won't go into detail about the complicated direct process, but via the buro is cheap and easy if you are willing to wait. And LoTW costs nothing. Not all DX use this great resource, but some DXers have DXCC using only Logbook of the World! And though not accepted for DXCC, eQSL is fun and easy.

So next time you hear a DX station calling CQ, don't just listen. Throw your callsign out there and have some fun.

73 and hope to see you down the log,
Edward / KJ4NRN

[See his qrz.com page — Age 13, Ed.]

AUCKLAND BRANCH, NZART (inc.)

General Meeting Minutes

On: Saturday, 16th June 2011 at 1330 hours

At: Branch Clubrooms

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

The President welcomed visitor and guest speaker, Paul ZL4AX.

Apologies: None.

Minutes:

The minutes of the previous General meeting held on 21st May was taken as read (in June Newsletter).

Accepted ZL1JJN / ZL1AAR

- **Arising:**

Selwyn asked the Committee to track the source of RF noise within the clubroom. He has documented it.

Finance Report:

The Treasurer circulated the Report dated 7 June that was presented to the Committee. He stated that paid membership was now 37 (last year 41). A few members attached by NZART are paying subs.

Accepted ZL1WAL /ZL1AAR

Report from NZART AGM and Conference: Gwynne ZL1AAR (our Delegate) reported on its highlights:

- **110 delegates:** This represented 60% of Amateurs.
- **Welcome to WIA:** (Their Executive and ours attend each other's Conferences in alternate years).
- **New Branch:** 89 Waikato ZL1REG.
- **Subs:** \$85.00 (same as this year). Early payers go into a draw for a hand-held transceiver.
- **Remits:**
 - 1: carried to ensure that the Constitutions of Branches remain consistent with that of NZART.
 - 7: amended to include 160 m. Carried. This allows NZART to ask RSM to allow transmission power of 1k watts PEP.
 - 12 and 13 were withdrawn;The rest of the remits were lost.
- **Life Member:** Doug Ingham.
- **Awards:** (also reported in the June Newsletter). Examinees who pass with 100% will be awarded.
- **Next Conference:** Nelson. Whangarei may host it in 2013.
- **No confidence in Committee:** A motion was put (and accepted after a 10 minute recess) and lost.
- **Kordia:** Acknowledgement was given to Dunedin Branch and their MP for their part in negotiating free hosting of repeaters for the next five years.
- **AREC meeting:** Stuart Watchman gave a vivid account of his escape from the Grand Excelsior Building during the Christchurch earthquake.
- **Saturday evening:** TV presenter Ian Johnstone was the after-dinner speaker.
- **Sunday meetings:** **WARO; SPAM, AMSAT-ZL** The hardware is finished. Software is under development.

Meeting closed at 1410 NZST.

Demonstration and explanation of Packet Transmission. Paul ZL4AX described the Packet system developed alongside ARPANET that predated the internet. He gave a comprehensive and very interesting demo of the packet system (at 1200 baud rate). Messages were relayed from the Clubroom (2m hand-held) via nodes at his van ZL4AX-S, (Titi)Rangi, Pukkie ZL4AX (his QTH), and back again. Other nearby nodes are hosted at Shore ZL1LW, and at Pokeno ZL1RP. Packet is useful for posting DX spots. The software used is Winpacket (free). See also BPQ32 developed by GM8PPQ. The hardware required is an X25 TNC, cheaply obtainable on ebay or at junk sales.

Steve gave a vote of thanks when the demo finished at 15:15 hours.

Afternoon tea: Courtesy of Ian Robinson, ZL2ATD.

AUCKLAND BRANCH, NZART (inc.)

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Date / Time / Place: Wednesday 5th July 2011; 1935 hours; Clubroom.

Attendees: Gwynne Rowe, ZL1AAR (Chairman); Wallace Bottomley ZL1WAL (Secretary / Treasurer); Ray Chapman ZL1AJR; Ian ZL2ATD; Japie ZL1JJN, and James ZL1KNI (visitor).

Apologies: Steve Miller ZL1FS; George Marr ZL1TUJ

Sustained ZL1AAR / ZL1WAL

Minutes of the previous Committee meeting on 8th June 2011 as published in the newsletter

Taken as read and accepted ZL1AAR/ ZL1AJR

- **Arising:** James visited Whangarei Branch last week end and discovered that they do not have the Montgomery Cup. The Secretary is to write to Papakura Branch to enquire if they have it (They won it in 2009).

Correspondence In:

- Newsletters from neighbouring branches: Hibiscus Coast; Franklin, Suburban;
- K Birt ZL1BFS (attached member) asking for name of someone to peer review his station for resource consent at his retirement QTH in Rodney.
- Vaughan Henderson, advising outcome of his meeting with Auckland City and advising their timetable to review bylaws. We need to register our interest as stakeholders on the subject of Antennas / height restrictions.
- Selwyn reporting progress tracking RFI in the clubroom.
- Radio NZ asking Steve to be interviewed on "On 100 years of Radio in New Zealand" programme.
- Subscriptions from two members.
- Japie stating his views about inefficiency of an all-band vertical antenna. He needs capacitors for Antenna band switching unit that he is constructing.
- James offering article for Newsletter about a 13 year old ham in USA and his DX success.
- State Insurance, Policy details and invoice.
- NZART Debby Morgan advising that Infoline Editor, Jamie Pye is now a Silent Key.

Correspondence Out:

- Japie; enclosing suitable capacitors (but sent to the wrong address).
- Murray McGehan re capacitors intended for Japie. (Murray subsequently delivered these to Japie).
- Vaughan Henderson with copies of Correspondence to / from K Birt.
- K Birt suggesting that Vaughan Henderson could assist him.

Arising:

- The Secretary read out the letter from K Birt. He is an RF Engineer now living in Gisborne but he had made representation to Auckland City Council to allow antennas to be altered without the requirement for station assessment each time.

Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1AAR

Finance: The Treasurer presented his year to date report.

Received ZL1WAL / ZL1JJN

Arising:

- \$1,000 has been transferred from the Cheque account to the Fast Saver account.
- The number of subscribing Branch Members is now the same as last year (41).
- The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his letter writing effort over the previous three years to keep in contact with members attached by NZART to our Branch.

Expenses requiring approval for payment

- R Higgins – Lawns in June \$34.50

Approved ZL1AAR / ZL1WAL

- State Insurance \$556.53 (being over \$300) needs to be approved at the next General Meeting.
- Steve is to submit expenses for 80m antenna expenses (brackets, etc) so that the Treasurer can write down the reserve made from the donation by Capt Bill, ZL1BJN to this project.
- Application to Auckland City for the cost of paint (\$200.00) was discussed and held over.
- No payment has been made to Mrs Schrickel from the Estate consignment account.

Minutes of Committee Meeting (Continued)

General business:

Reports

- *AREC: Nothing to report, though there was a practice session on 16th June that clashed with our General Meeting. Too short notice of it was given.*
- *Exams: Nothing to report.*

Antennas

- *Erecting 80m*
- *Realignment of the beam*
- *Vertical all-band*

Action by

Steve - The end pole has to be shifted so as to clear the roof.
Steve - A summer job.
To be discussed further.

Maintenance / projects

- *Tracing RFI and earthing*
- *Painting walls and roof*
- *Battery replacement*
- *Computer LAN*
- *Internet connection*
- *Alarm connect*
- *Surveillance connect to laptop*
- *Filing – magazines*

Action by

Selwyn
Working bee. Ray said that he could provide white acrylic paint.
Steve - not urgent
Wallace. George has donated a printer server.
James
Steve
Steve / George will obtain 2 cameras.
Wallace reported that all the cartons have been emptied and the magazines filed in date order. Duplicates have been dumped.
Billy Leigh (a non member) has set aside junk that he wants (at no cost to him, but in exchange for lengths of high quality 75 ohm satellite coax). This cable is considered to be suitable for HF.
Club Members have first choice of the junk — call in this month.
James suggested that junk should be taken to other Branches' junk sales. Additionally, each item should be photographed and advertised on TradeMe before being disposed of. Volunteer please.
Clarification of the route of the line and a trench is required asap.
Japie has finished and tested it. A relay unit is to be discussed.
Steve / Simon
To be discussed again

- *Shelving – storing gear / junk*

- *Phone line*
- *Antenna band switch kitset*
- *Modify NZART 2m fox hunt gear*
- *New Sniffers for 80m.*

Program for General Meetings (Suggestions only until speakers are confirmed)

- *16th July – Fox hunt training (weather permitting).*
- *20th August – Fox hunt (weather permitting) else presentation about UFOs.*
- *23rd through 28th September — Region 3 ARDF Championships are to be held near Melbourne.*
The Chairman suggested sponsorship of registration fee for a NZ team to attend (airfares excluded).
- *17th September – Software defined radio / Satellite project.*

Meeting closed 21:20 with supper provided by Ian, ZL2ATD.

Signed _____ Date _____
(Chairman)

Auckland Council – Amalgamation of District Plans

Hi All,

Last week I made enquiries of the new Auckland Council to try and find out what the timetable was for amalgamating all the various District Plans currently operative into one common plan for the new city.

After a little delay, I managed to contact Mr. Phil Reed, Unitary Manager, Auckland Council. He was quite informative:

1. Council has formed a number of “Streams” each of which is tasked with looking at specific aspects of each of the current District Plans. (I take it in this context a “stream” is a working group formed of Council employees).
2. All the Streams are to have completed their preliminary reports, identifying where there are “issues” which will need more work by the end of this year. These reports go before the Auckland Council.
3. Beginning 2012, if everything goes to schedule, work will begin on formulating the new Unitary Plan which is the name being given to the new Auckland Council’s equivalent of the old District Plan.
4. During 2012, as sections of the new Unitary Plan take shape, there will be a process of notification and an opportunity for “stakeholder” consultation and input to the provisions of the new Unitary Plan. Yes – that us, we are now “stakeholders” - exciting eh?
5. Sometime in 2013 or 2014 or later... depends on how long step 4 takes and how many objections are received and if there are challenges taken to the Environment Court, etc. the new Unitary Plan will be adopted and become the new rules under which Auckland City will operate.

Mr. Phil Reed said that they were interested in identifying “stakeholders” who would have an interest in the new Unitary Plan and invited me to write to him with my contact details. I have done so expressing interest in anything to do with antennas, aerials, masts, poles and their positioning on a property and also radio frequency emissions. Hopefully that about covers the field! I am advised that the new Council will contact me with information on the relevant section(s) of the new Unitary Plan in time for submissions to be made.

In the mean time – whatever rules currently apply to your location under the old City Council’s District Plan are still operative – i.e. if you want to get a new mast up, now might be a good time to do it!

Best regards

Vaughan Henderson ZL1TGC

26 June 2011.

Ham radio far from over or out

The pioneering electronic social network is experiencing a resurgence.

When you think of the instant communication at our fingertips thanks to web-enabled mobile devices and the social media explosion of Twitter and Face book, it's easy to dismiss amateur radio as a dusty relic destined for oblivion.

But the bastions of ham radio believe the century-old form of radio communication is as relevant as ever - it proved invaluable during recent natural disasters in Australia, Japan, China, Pakistan and Haiti.

One amateur radio veteran of more than 50 years, Doug McArthur (whose call-sign is VK3UM), lived through the Black Saturday bushfires, relying on his UHF CB radio to warn neighbours of the approaching flames. "We knew where the trouble spots were, which neighbours had stayed and those who had left," he says. "Since that time, about 60 locals have bought UHF CB radios."

When Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin, he flew up to assess the damage done to phone systems. It was exactly the meltdown he had predicted, with Darwin's telephone exchange unable to withstand a "big blow". McArthur says that even in a society of mobile phones and social media, amateur radio is a critical part of the emergency communication mix. "In a crisis, the mobile phone network will never handle the traffic that's imposed on it." That's why many in the hobby take part in "field days", setting up a radio station in the bush using alternative power sources.

But it's not all serious stuff. Radio hams like to experiment and McArthur's toy is a giant satellite dish built in the US in the 1960s and used to test the radio path across Bass Strait. He bought it from Telstra before it could be sold for scrap metal and erected it on his Glenburn property. Not even a near-fatal stroke stopped him from attempting to reach the moon with his one-tonne dish.

"My neighbour is a welder, so we set to rebuild the frame and control system," he says. "I use it for reflecting signals off the moon, the detection of deep-space signals and astronomical noise sources, which has been a lifetime ambition for me."

Only a couple of people in Australia have ever done it. It might seem a strange pursuit, but the precision and the challenge of the moon bounce thrills this Morse-code expert.

"Of all the power that you radiate off your aerial, 98 per cent of it is lost getting to the moon and of what hits the moon, only 0.6 per cent gets reflected, with 98 per cent of that coming back."



Ham radio stalwart Doug McArthur outside his radio shed near Glenburn. Photo: Doug McArthur. Moonbounce Communications, vk3um.com.



Justin Stewart and Monique Golub take to the airwaves at Sherbrook Community School. Photo: Rodger Cummins Sherbrook Community Radio Club, vk3kid.org.au.

Grade 8 student Monique Golub achieved her foundation licence in grade 6 and now competes in amateur radio challenges such as the 160-metres Trans-Tasman contest, with points scored for contacts made over a six-hour period.

"I just love the people you meet and the competitions," the 13-year-old says.

"I've spoken to a chef in Texas and an astronaut on the International Space Station.

"I was the first girl in the club and now some of my friends have joined."

Maths teacher Edward Seeto (VK3LIP) of the Sherbrooke Community School, says students have learnt to be resourceful and experimental through building their own equipment, and it has given them a practical understanding of mathematical equations such as Ohm's law. "They're not passive consumers," he says.

"They make things like their own antennas from cast-offs. There's quite some maths and dexterity involved. [Amateur radio] is encouraging them to pursue maths and sciences, and providing social interaction."

From an outdoor radio gazebo with its 15-metre-high Nally radio tower, a dozen of his students are learning the ropes from ham radio veterans Randall McDonald (VK3RM) and Jim McNabb (VK3AMN), who volunteer their time on Thursdays and on weekends.

Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club president Jack Bramham (VK3WWW) regards amateur radio as the original social network.

"Facebook and Twitter are about wanting to know what your friends are up to," he says. "The radio is exactly the same."

Bramham has embraced digital technology and broadcasts his Wednesday-night news program (which includes vision) on frequency 446.500 MHz via the Melbourne Amateur Radio Repeater on Mount Dandenong. In his spare time he enjoys ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding), an electronic version of orienteering that's also called radiosport or fox-hunting.

"You're out in the bush with an antenna and a map and you listen for the transmitter signal, which comes on for one minute and then turns off for four minutes. You find it and check it off and move on to the next one." Bramham says that hitting that elusive target while traipsing through the bush gives him a huge buzz.



Radio volunteers Jim McNabb (left) and Randall McDonald. Photo: Rodger Cummins



Welcome to the Radio Electronics Group (Inc.)
Branch 89, New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART) — approved June 2011

<http://www.angelsnz.net/ZL3SV/links/ZL1REG%20%20%20Radio%20Electronics%20Group%20%28Inc.%29.htm>

Club radio call signs are ZL1REG and ZL2REG. Our radio nets are:

- VHF Sundays: 1930 hours on Waitomo rptr. 147.375
- HF Thursdays: 2000 NZDST 3.615khz LSB

Group meetings are on the second Saturday of the month at the Glenview Club, 211 Peacockes Road, Glenview, Hamilton. Telephone 07-843-7129

Originally formed on Saturday the 15th. July, 2006, this new vibrant radio group was formed to cater for and promote amateur radio while enjoying it at the same time. Membership is throughout both North and South Islands.

Our objectives are:

- To kindle friendship and assist those interested in amateur radio, citizen band radio, personal radio service, short wave radio and computer for communication. We hold social and practical construction meetings.
- To be competitive but also have fun on contests and field day activities.
- To assemble a group of trained radio operators and their equipment for assistance with radio communication for sporting and community events plus emergency communications in times of disaster. Some of our members assist with safety communications for the Rally New Zealand and the Hawkes Bay Rally.
- National body NZART membership is encouraged but not compulsory. Many of our 34 members belong to and support NZART plus other radio clubs and groups.
- Our annual new and used equipment sale is on the second Saturday of May

2011 ~ 2012 Club officers:

- President: ZL1PO John Lisignoli Ph.07-855-5912
- Secretary: ZL4GJ Trevor Service Ph.07 843 7365
- Treasurer: ZL4GJ Trevor Service Ph.07 843 7365

Committee:

ZL1SAD Steve Alderson Ph.07 855 2227
ZL1UCT Jim Medland Ph.07 846 7415
ZL1GW Alfred Duffell Ph.07 846 3463
ZL1CTC Robert Curtis
ZL4TJE Alan Townsend Ph.07 855 9095

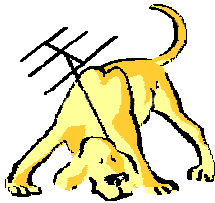
Club Patron ZL1BXT Cecil James

Postal address:

Radio Electronics Group (Inc.)
c/o P. O. Box 8041
Hamilton.


Club repeater status reports:

438.875MHz (-5MHz) No Tone Required:
147.125MHz (+600khz) Project Under construction

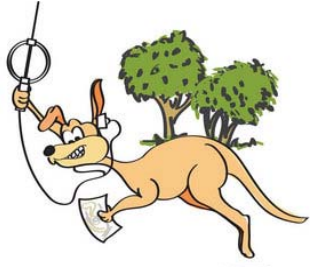



The Fox Hunting corner

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_rDgk
- A Fox hunt training day will be held after the General Meeting on 16th July. You will need to bring a compass and a fresh batteries.
- In August we shall hold another Fox hunting event.
- 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