



New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters

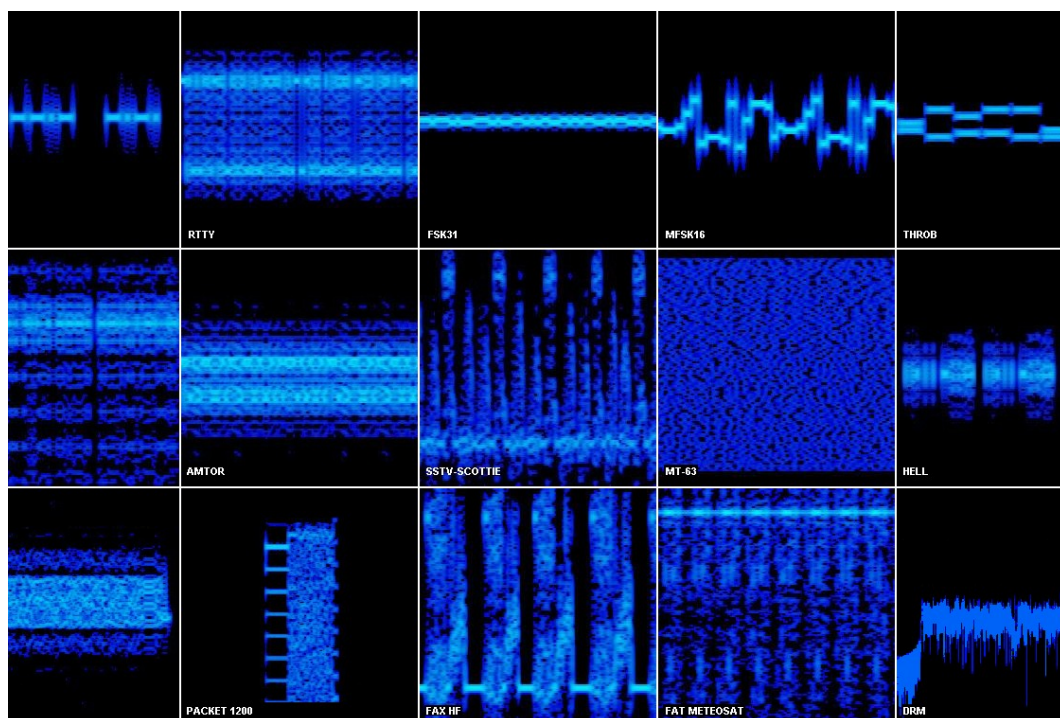
ZL1AA - AUCKLAND BRANCH 02

JUNE

2018

☞ **General Meeting** ☞
SATURDAY JUN. 16 @ 13:30
Wes, ZL3TE
Short intro to Digi Modes

Club Room will open at 10:30 AM
BBQ @ 12:00



KH1/KH7Z Baker Island 2018 27 June - 06 July

ZL1AA

Auckland Branch 02
PO Box 18003
Glen Innes
Auckland 1743

www.qsl.net/zl1aa
ZL1AA@nzart.org.nz
Skype: ZL1AA_NZ

Club Officers

President:

Wes Printz, ZL3TE
ZL3TE@dxer.com
027 227-7779

Vice President:

Steve Miller, ZL1FS
HeathkitDX60@yahoo.com
021 0226-4981

Secretary:

Wallace Bottomley, ZL1WAL
auckland.nzart@gmail.com
(09) 575-6383

Treasurer:

Jeff Lowe ZL1TOU
jeffjanet51@gmail.com
(09) 630-0213

Elected Members:

Gwynne Rowe, ZL1AAR
rgwynne.rowe@xtra.co.nz
(09) 528-1177

Olivier Wardecki, ZL1XS
zl1xsnz@gmail.com

Japie Nel, ZL1JJN
jjnel@orcon.net.nz

Jimmy Smith, ZL1TGS
jimmys@xtra.co.nz
027 492-5152

ZL1AA Information:

Branch 02 Clubroom is located at
400 St Johns Road
St Heliers, Auckland
(Off the main road)

Google Earth:
36.869730s, 174.843860e

Clubroom is open every Saturday from
1030 hrs. for members and guests to drop
by for coffee and a chat!

General meetings are held on the third
Saturday of each month at 1330 hrs.
(except Dec / Jan).

Committee meetings are held on the first
Tuesday of each month at 1930 hrs. ALL
paid members are welcome to attend.

Affiliations:

10-10 International
NZART
AMSAT-ZL

Club nets:

Thursday:
145.775 MHz @ 1930 Steve, ZL1FS NCO
HF Net on Hiatus

10-10 Down Under Chapter Net:
28.530 MHz 2230Z Fridays
(1030 NZST Saturdays)

Branch Contacts:

Gwynne Rowe, ZL1AAR
(09)-528-1177

Branch Examiners:

Steve Miller, ZL1FS
021 0226-4981
Wallace Bottomley, ZL1WAL
(09) 575-6383

Wes Printz, ZL3TE
027 227-7779

Web Master:

Andrei Chatalov, ZL1TM
achatz@gmail.com

Librarian:

Olivier Wardecki, ZL1XS
zl1xsnz@gmail.com

Station Trustees:

George Marr, ZL1TUJ
Wes Printz, ZL3TE

Branch Technical Advisers:

Simon Watt-Wyness, ZL1SWW
sww@eagle.co.nz



SUBSCRIPTIONS

❖ Subscription Rates:

Regular \$45 (discounted with a \$5.00 raffle ticket if paid by 31 Mar 2018)
Youth Rate \$20

- ❖ Post to PO Box 18003, Glen Innes, Auckland 1743, direct credit may be made into our bank account **12-3047-0076823-00** or pay the Treasurer or Secretary at the clubrooms.
- ❖ A pro rata rate is offered to a new member joining part way through the year. The financial year runs from 1 November 31 October
- ❖ Receipts will be distributed either in person at meetings or via mail/E-mail.
- ❖ Branch financial year currently runs from 1 November to 31 October.
- ❖ A current Membership Application / Renewal Form is required with all payments to assist with accurate record keeping. Available from the Secretary, or by download http://www.qsl.net/zl1aa/br02_mem_form.pdf
- ❖ All members' information is kept confidential unless approval is given for it to be released.

Newsletter material submissions are welcomed and appreciated by your editor. You may submit material in a variety of file formats: .TXT .DOC, or just plain old E-mail. Photos are accepted also. Please submit material via E-Mail to: ZL3TE @ dxer.com I will use what I can with the space available at the time of newsletter editing.

From The Chair...

Welcome to June. Time to bundle up in front of the rig and work some late night DX on the low bands as the temperature and SFI Plummet even further. There is still quite a bit of activity on the higher bands mainly on FT8. 17m has been productive in the mornings to EU. Speaking of FT8, I will do a brief talk on Digimodes at the general meeting including FT8.

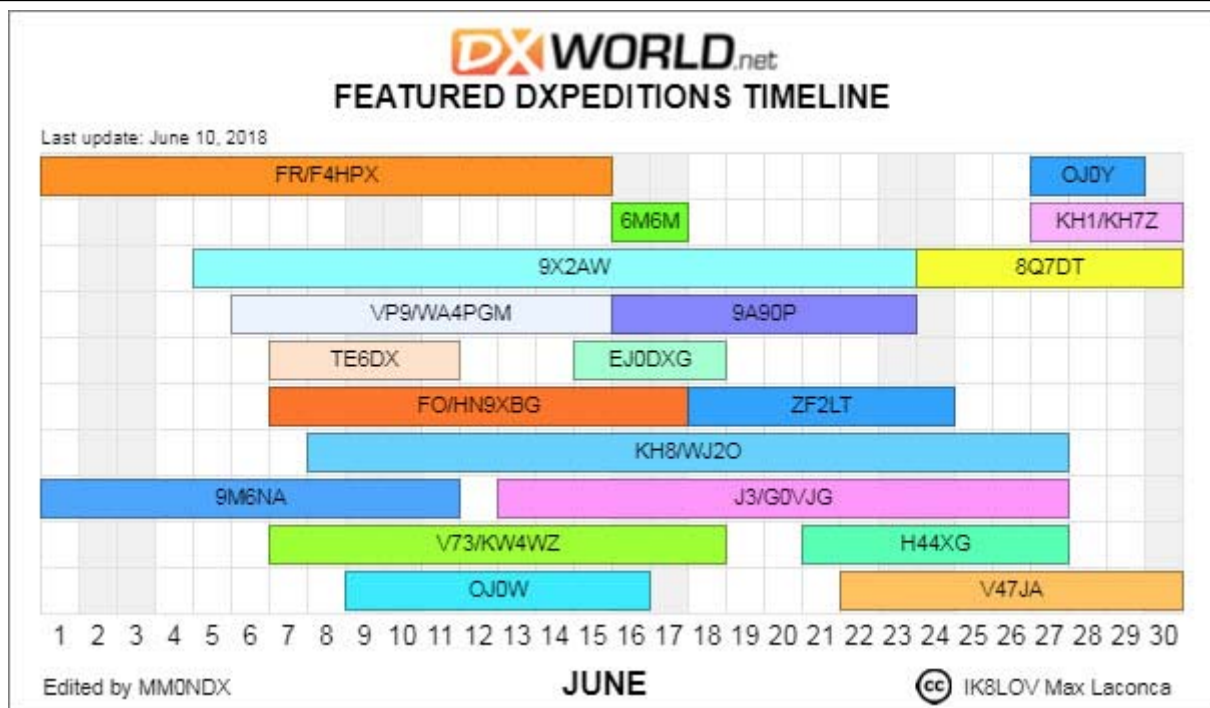
This past weekend at the clubroom there was a flurry of activity. Simon, ZL1SWW, was busy in the Satellite corner, Jim, ZL1TGS and Soren, ZL1SKL busy in the VHF corner and HF2, while I was at HF1. We were installing the Rigs gifted to the club by the ZL1AJR estate. There were several others doing various tasks around the clubroom.



The HF1 position is now QRV on SSB, CW and Digimodes on 10, 15, and 20m. Several FT8 contacts were made to demonstrate the mode on Saturday. The Satellite corner now has D-STAR along with DMR.

The HF mast repairs at the rear of the clubroom will be completed soon, as the hardware is almost complete. I'm waiting for 8pcs of M20 threaded rod to be delivered next week.

73, Wes, ZL3TE



Looking for something to do on the weekend? Need to fill some more DXCC Challenge slots? work new Countries, work new modes? Why not operate a short while in a contest. There are several to choose from. More Information can be found here:

<http://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

JUN 11-18

- All Asian DX Contest, CW: Jun 16 / 17
- Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest: Jun 16 / 17
- ARR BPSK63 Contest: Jun 16 / 17
- Stew Perry Topband Challenge: Jun 16 / 17
- West Virginia QSO Party: Jun 16 / 17
- Feld Hell Sprint: Jun 16

MAY 22-29

- Battle of Carabobo International Contest: Jun 23/24
- Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest: Jun 23 / 24
- His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB: Jun 23 / 24
- ARRL Field Day: Jun 23 / 24
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Every Month: NZART Official Broadcast: 3900 kHz LSB last Sunday of month at 2000hrs and at 2100hrs. (Also broadcast on the National Link and available on the NZART Website).

Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc.) Minutes of June Committee Meeting

Place / Date / Time: Clubroom, Tuesday, 5th June 2018 at 1930 hours

Present: Wes ZL3TE presiding; Wallace ZL1WAL; Jeff ZL1TOU; Japie ZL1JJN; Gwynne ZL1AAR; Olivier ZL1XS; and Soren ZL1SKL.

Apologies: Steve ZL1FS

Sustained ZL1WAL / ZL1TGS

Minutes: of the previous Committee meeting on Tuesday 1st May 2018

Adopted ZL1WAL / ZL1JJN

Correspondence:

Newsletters: Franklin, North Shore; Papakura, Musick Point (by post); Western Suburbs; Auckland VHF Group; Hibiscus Coast; Papakura; Westlakes (by e-mail);

Branch distribution of Newsletters from North Cant, Hastings / Napier, Rotorua, Hamilton, Gisborne, Musick Point
NZART re Branch distribution list is bouncing.

Howard Buxton – checking synopsis of his remarks to May's General Meeting before including in its Minutes.

Joseph Chang – thanking him for donating Kenwood TS520S rig.

Paul Burgess re valves for sale.

Meadowbank Pony Club – asking for commitment to mow our lawns.

Andre Poynton ZL2FLY of Branch 80 – expressing interest in tower at Murrays Bay; photos were sent to him.

New Plymouth Branch – junk sale 1st September

Panuku Development Ltd. (Auckland Council) – Confirmation (by email) that our clubroom building is not on their Asset Register.

State Insurance – Requested quotation to cover Building = \$60,000, Contents = \$2,000, Stock = \$12,000; Premium = \$621.80

Andre – Update web page directory (delete Ray ZL1AJR-SK)

NZART – Directory page for next Call-book is the same as for 2018.

Arising: Confirmation about clubroom asset needs to be written on Civil Defence or Auckland Council letterhead alternatively, acknowledgement by State Insurance of the e-mail from Panuku Developments, copied to them.

Finance:

Finance Report: 1st Nov 2017 – 1st June 2018.

Members: 33 + 2 Life Members.

Received ZL1TOU / ZL1JJN

Conference:

Report of NZART Conference at Dunedin 2018 by Delegate, Gwynne Rowe ZL1AAR:

Welcome by Hon Clare Curran, Labour Member of Parliament for Dunedin South (since 2008); Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media, Minister for Government Digital Services, Associate Minister for ACC and Associate Minister of State Services.

Subscriptions for 2019 will remain unchanged.

AREC National Director:

Jeff Sayer has stepped down (for health reasons); Geoff Chapman ZL3PX was appointed.

LandSAR is assuming the lead. AREC are needed to provide technical support.

Public Liability Insurance is not available to Members that belong to a Branch that has Charitable Trust status.

A call is being made for all such branches.

Stuart Watchman ZL2TW is not standing as President of NZART again.

Newsletter: Thanks by ZL6A for our Newsletter.

Remits were voted exactly as Auckland Branch had voted;

Cease producing paper version of Call-book – **Lost**

Allow Members to opt out of receiving CDRom version of Call-book – **Lost**

Approach RSM to ease requirements about granting licences to non- NZers – **Lost**

Amend Constitution of NZART to permit Review of Financial Accounts – **Carried**

Amend Constitution of NZART to extend time by 160 days, to present review – **Carried**

Youngest examinee is Zac Tucker ZL1TJZ, attached to Auckland Branch was awarded a VHF radio.

Life membership of the Association was accorded to Celia Reed ZL1ALK

2019 conference will be at New Plymouth. 2020 conference venue may be Greymouth (Westland 49).

Break-in awards to three contributors who were each given ARRL handbooks.

Stirrer's award: Mark Sullivan for his 1st April spoof in Break-in.

AMSAT-NZ launching options are Rocket Labs (in 12 months) or Virgin (sooner), else wind-up the project. A fund raiser has stepped up. The satellite has been reliably operational at Ian Ashley's ZL1AOX QTH for several years (while housed in a clean-air capsule).

Raffle was won by Gwynne - a Hamsat manual.

JWFD Certificates as runner up for 2017 and 2018. Gwynne donated frames for these.

Certificate and VHF radio for youngest examinee. Awarded to Zac Tucker ZL1ZJT.

Received with thanks ZL1WAL / ZL3TE

(June Committee Meeting Minutes Continued on page 5)

Reports:

General Meeting on 19th May – It was disappointing that only 7 attended to hear Harold Buxton, Northern Councilor to share concerns being discussed by NZART Council.

Maintenance outstanding: Internal electric wiring; Front step replacement; Painting exterior west walls;

Lawn mowing: Suggest sending letter to Committee of Meadowbank Pony Club asking for commitment.

AREC: Japie tabled the Minutes of the May meeting.

Relevance is still under discussion because of attitude being shown by CD.

DMR radios need setup to be standardized. Profile can be downloaded from a file.

Membership cards will be reissued subject to Health and Safety considerations.

Generator: Painting petrol tank. Fuel in it was non-volatile; work in progress.

Exams: Michael Flemming has started to study for licence.

Visitors: Harold Buxton, Northern Councillor to NZART

Nets: Last week 8 Members checked in VHF net hosted by Steve ZL1FS.

Newsletter: JWFD results to be published

Remotely controlled station: Working well.

Phone line: Simon has implemented Wifi function. Soren is funding a 7Mbps ISP package.

Membership: New Member Glen Carrs ZL1MY. He has expressed interested in SOTA.

Meter reading: 51418.1

Antennas / Project plans:

Plate has been made. Wes will get 4 rods. 2 day program: 1 hoist plinth; 2 Engage driller who will do chem-set fixing Antenna(s) for Yaesu FT736R at HF3.

40 m dipole support has been straightened.

80m dipole needs halyard to be replaced

Concrete base is needed for Satelllite antenna to stabilize it – new Members may want to use it.

Antenna at Murray's Bay- some interest is being shown to remove it.

Future Events / entertainment / speakers

Digital modes demo in June

Invite Richard Gamble, Dave Wilkins to make an AREC presentation

Component sales:

Committee to continue to reorganize inventory of shelves / lookup and write selling blurb, and set prices.

Decide what to sell / dump / keep for lending to (new) Members.

Ray Chapman's ZL1AJR-SK gear has been formally donated to the Branch and receipted by Secretary.

An inventory list will be made for publication in newsletter before advertising on TradeMe.

Ray Chapman Memorial:

That as a memorial to Ray Chapman ZL1AJR-SK, a life Member of Auckland Branch, the following radios donated to the Branch by his nieces, Colleen and Ann, shall be set up as operational stations for Members to use – especially to encourage use by new Members:

Icom 7610

Icom 7300

Icom 7100

Unanimous ZL1TGS / ZL1JJN
The meeting closed at 21:40



Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc.) Minutes of May General Meeting

Date / Time / Place: Saturday 19th May 2018 / 1340 hours / Clubroom

Attendees: Wes ZL3TE (presiding), Wallace ZL1WAL, Gwynne ZL1AAR, Jimmy ZL1TGS, Bob ZL1AFU, Ken ZL1TJL, Ian ZL2ATD as per Attendance Book.

Welcome: Howard Buxton ZL1BXA Northern Councillor for NZART

Apologies: Steve ZL1FS, Soren ZL1SKL, Jeff ZL1TOU.

Sustained ZL1WAL / ZL1TGS

Minutes: Minutes of General Meeting on Saturday 17th February 2018 was circulated in the February newsletter.

Adopted ZL1WAL / ZL1TGS

Reports: from the Committee. (Minutes of its latest meeting on 1st May 2018, appears in the May newsletter).

JWFD: Auckland Branch finished second in the Montgomery Cup (which was won again by Whangarei Branch).

Tri-band pole: Three quotes were received, all exceeding \$300 for an additional base plate. Meanwhile \$345 has been prepaid to start its fabrication.

Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1AAR

A further \$350 + will be required for steel bolts and nuts, drilling and epoxy.

Lawns: The grounds-man of the Meadowbank Pony Club has cut them twice using its tractor and mower which does not do as satisfactory a job as their ride-on mower would. Steve ZL1FS reported back that the Committee of the Meadowbank Pony Club has yet to decide whether to take on this task and at what cost.

Stack of timber in our area: City Rail Link, the new head lessee, has not yet arranged that Auckland Transport relocate it or, clean up the driveway which is partially obstructed by neighbours' litter.

Ownership of the clubhouse building: Wallace has been assured that this clubroom building is not on the Asset Register of Auckland Council Property Limited. Similarly, Civil Defence has stated that they have no interest in the building or any activity going on within it. Formal confirmation of our ownership is required to satisfy Insurance legalities. It was suggested to ACPL that conveyance at a pepper corn amount is needed to offset our gift of the building to the Northern CD Committee in 1970.

Insurance: More rigs are in the clubroom; some locked in the safe; some exceeding \$5,000 so these need to be detailed for insuring. Ray's ZL1AJR-SK rigs are being held in trust until probate is granted. Insuring these is a priority. Premium to cover the Building for \$60,000, Contents, \$10,000 and Stock, \$20,000 is about \$780.00.

Recommend to insure ZL1AFU / ZL1WAL

ICom 7610. A recommendation and decision will be made between retaining this rig at HF1 as a memorial to Ray, versus selling it.

Tidy up: All non-radio "junk" is being disposed of. The shelves are being cleared to make way for components to make them more accessible.

Component sales: Interest is being shown in valves. Rigs in the storeroom will be tested and advertised on TradeMe. It was recommended that the more valuable items should be tendered for (as we did for the Tektronix scope) and opened in Committee.

Wifi within the clubroom is now operating.

Remote Station: This has been off and on last month. Many requests have been received to "tune" the Remote Station, but no overseas Amateurs have yet applied for Membership of the Branch.

Invoices were sent to collect Branch subscriptions in arrears. A further letter will be sent to give notice that their names will be purged from the Membership Register.

Attached Members: A further 34 NZART Members are attached to Auckland Branch, but until they voluntarily join our Branch, they have no privileges, other than entitlement to vote at this meeting on remits to be decided at the NZART AGM.

Newsletters: There has been a software glitch preventing newsletters being posted to our web site immediately after they are distributed to Members.

Fox hunting gear: Steve has provided a regulated battery charger. Two home-built foxes were recovered from Alan ZL1AJH; these need crystals (3.54 MHz and 3.55 MHz) and timers to complete their construction.

Remarks by Howard Buxton: See next page for a synopsis.

Delegate to NZART AGM:

That Gwynne Rowe ZL1AAR shall be this Branch's Delegate at the NZART AGM to represent its views, and to use 68 votes (in the ratio recorded below) on remits and any amendments made to them as he sees fit.

Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1AAR

BBQ: Thanks to Gwynne ZL1AAR for providing and cooking the BBQ luncheon at noon.

(May General Meeting Minutes Continued on page 7)

Remits:

- Cease producing the printed version of the Call Book (presently printed in alternative years).
0 votes for; 6 votes against; 0 abstained.
- Members may opt out of receiving the CD version or printed version or both.
0 votes for; 6 votes against; 0 abstained.
- Approach RSM to ease requirements about granting licences to non NZers passing the Amateur exam.
6 votes for; 0 votes against; 0 abstained.
- Amend constitution of NZART to permit Annual Review (instead of Audit) of Accounts.
6 votes for; 0 votes against; 0 abstained.
- Amend time allowed to present financial review be extended to 160 days.
6 votes for; 0 votes against; 0 abstained.

The meeting concluded at 1510 hours

Synopsis of remarks made at Auckland Branch on 19th May 2018 by Howard Buxton, ZL1BXA / ZL1WAI, Northern Councilor for NZART Inc.

On average, I receive a large number of e-mails each day. Often, they are not relevant to me but are necessary information and background reading. The President often receives negative and abusive e-mails. Similarly at National level. I have no idea why Radio Hams write them. My old boss said: "Write it, and if negative, send it to yourself, then review what you wrote and consider if it should be sent at all."

Tributes should be given to the many Officers, who at no recompense, take on various roles for NZART. Special mention should be given to Douglas Birt ZL1BFS who supports so many branches with their submissions to their Local Authorities who are reviewing their district plans. Debby Morgan works part time and handles a huge amount of work on behalf of members and branches. She has extensive knowledge.

The Public Liability insurance issue has been taken over by Peter of Whangarei for investigation. An inventory of repeaters sited on towers owned by Chorus, is being made. These are about to be billed for rent. Access to them may be through neighbouring property which is another matter. Break-in is costly to produce. Fortunately, contributors are consistently reliable. The Call-book is costly; DVD versions cost just as much. Anecdotes suggest that they are unpopular.

Advertising revenue for these publications is drying up. RWB Communications (ICOM) have withdrawn support; Jaycar is not interested. A marketing plan is ready, though no-one has been found to do it. Councilors trim costs by meeting on air. Stuart Watchman does so much to control costs.

NZART have looked after the finances well in recent years. Some years ago, its books were in a bad way. Australia has gone through a difficult time and has had to restructure. It is necessary to keep control of the expenses now that there are fewer members and no sponsors.

Each membership campaign has limited continuity because many recruits drop out the following year. There are a large number of errors in the Call-book because it contains silent keys or some addresses have been changed and not been notified. When checking the call book and the addresses shown, we discovered that the ham had never been heard of. Others when contacted showed no interest at all. If there were to be a (small) charge for renewing one's call-sign, as is done in USA, this problem would sort itself out, because they would eventually drop out after a grace period. (Remember driving licences for life?)

Many Hams do not support NZART nor a local Branch. Many branches have gone into recess; some have combined. Some branches get new members by supporting JOTA and YOTA and running courses. Schools and universities show no interest. Licences are being sought by people who have no interest in amateur radio, e.g. boat and yacht owners.

It would be wise to follow up on Hams who have just passed their exams. They tend to drop off very quickly. I suggest that you allocate a mentor to each new member. FT8 is killing DX radio; (DMR similarly). However, ZL is a sought-after prefix by Europeans.



The 2018 DXpedition to Baker Island occurs during the declining side of the solar cycle where propagation is usually much, much worse, nearing the bottom. In addition, there are limited hours of darkness in some Northern Hemisphere locations. However, this is the when our permit is valid and we are planning to maximize the time we are available to work to propagation challenged areas. For instance, stations will be on 20 meters 24 hours a day. First, thanks to Stu, K6TU, we have embedded his tools in our website where you can run forecasts specific to your grid square and station properties.

Please visit <http://www.baker2018.net/pages/propagation.html> to see when and on what bands to look for us. We have also run these forecasts by geographic area to know when we should be listening for you. The forecasts are grim. However, stations on the Equator report working EU in June/July is one of the better times. During noon, local time, we don't expect to hear any signals. We will mostly likely take our main meals during that time, and rest up, for a long night of productive QSOs. Remember, these are predictions – like climate versus weather. Climate is what you expect, weather is what you get. Keep an ear on the bands – you might catch an opening. Check the daily space weather forecast – <http://sunspotwatch.com>

Our network of worldwide pilots will also report how well we are being heard in your area to keep us abreast of propagation. Our permit restricts our antennas to 43 ft vertical antennas. We won't get the gain of a Yagi, nor the directionality. We will be using Steppirs and special design antennas to take advantage of the salt water ground. One of the antenna designs has been adapted by AA7JV from the recent 3B7A operation.

We will be using FT8 to find openings we might not hear, and to serve as a beacon. When we find an opening, we will put as many radios/modes/ops on as we can. Our group helped develop the latest WSJT-X software to incorporate a DXpedition fox/hound mode. Please download version 1.9.0 before we are QRV around 27 June. This may expand the bands we are able to use at this point in the solar cycle. We've also put a "how to use the new FT8" primer on our site. You can view it and our planned operating frequencies at <https://www.baker2018.net/pages/plan.html> It will help those new to the mode to quickly master the new version.

As previously mentioned, we will stay on 20 meters continuously and jump to other bands from one of the other 7 operating positions. Our 15 operators will rotate on and off in 3 hour shifts. We have one goal, maximize the number of ATNO QSOs with this 5th most wanted entity.