



Auckland Branch 02, N.Z.A.R.T INTERIM NEWSLETTER



Notice of General Meeting

of Auckland Branch of NZART (inc)
to be held at the Clubroom, 400 St Johns Road
on Saturday, 15th May at 1330 hours.

Agenda:

- Election of Delegate to AGM of NZART
- Voting on remits:
 1. That ARX services shall be free to NZART members.
 2. Revision of the Family Membership Subscription.
 3. Request MED to release the X, Y and Z call signs for general use.
 4. That NZART obtain mandate before implementing entry level licence.
 5. That the AREC forum be held on Saturday after the AGM in future.
 6. Amend constitution defining Non-Transmitting Members of the Association.

Proxies should be given to Donald, ZL1CY, (acting Secretary for the day) prior to the meeting.

- NZART issues - NZART Vice President, Vaughan Henderson, ZL1TGC will address the meeting.
- General business

From The Chair

What a wonderful extended summer we are having this year. I do hope you are able to take full advantage of it.

Last month we advised that the meeting would discuss and decide our club's decision on the six remits coming forward at the NZART AGM and Conference, being held this Queens Birthday weekend. Unfortunately this topic did not go ahead and it was therefore put on the Agenda for this month. Your copy of Break-In has the remits printed on page 22 accompanied with an explanation and comment from Council where applicable. Please pre-read these before our meeting. It will assist the discussion. We are fortunate in having Councilor Vaughan Henderson join us for direction or clarification if needed as we make our deliberations.

Following the dispatch of the remits we will ask Vaughan to cover topics that are involving our hobby now and in the future. It is always good to get collective thought and discussion happening because, by virtue of our hobby, we do not get together as much as other organisations. There are topics such as 'an entry level certificate' which will benefit from discussion, as will others.

Our monthly meeting Sat. 15th. May starts at 1330 hours, but as usual there will be a BBQ light lunch put on around mid-day. -- Sausages, sauce, tomatoes, bread and butter, cup of tea, --- something like that anyway!

You will notice quite a few changes around the club house, the wooden CD practice tower has gone, the surrounding grounds cleared more, and the dear old club house is shaping up a little more each month. I thank the maintenance boys.

Don't forget the club nets on Monday evening at 2000 hours VHF 145775; and at 2100 hours HF 3645. It would be nice to gather more of you together now that the winter nights are drawing in.

I mentioned last month about the annual NZART conference to be held at Alexandra Park. Once again I commend to you how much you will enjoy the two days. It could not be closer to attend than this year. Hope to see you there. Look forward to seeing you on the club nets and at our meetings.

Cheers and 73

Gwynne ZL1AAR

Bon Bon

On 19 April Auckland Branch lost a favourite honorary member, Bon bon the friendly pedigree English bulldog owned by Bill Schlef, ZL1BJN. She passed away suddenly and peacefully at home at the respectable old age of 13 years.. On her numerous visits to our clubrooms she held many eyeball QSOs with members present. We extend our sympathy to Bill on his loss.

ZL1FS/MM

Steve Miller ZL1FS
Aboard the Greenpeace Ship
'Arctic Sunrise' in the
Northern Oceans

Confirming QSO with	D	M	Y	Time	Freq	Mode	Report	QSL
ZL1AA on Skype	5	11	09	0700 Z	—	skype	Bad Coms	Pse Tnx

Steve is about to go to sea again for another three months as Electrician / Third Engineer on this, not so magnificent, ship, he says.

Members can often QSO him on Echolink in the early morning before he goes to bed. [Ed.]

EXTRACTS FROM INFO-LINE

NZART HOME PAGE

Recently this has been updated by means of a second toolbar displaying another row of access buttons. This should make searching for information quite a bit more friendly. Please try it out sometime.

If you are still looking for regulatory etc. data you can try to contact persons ZL1AFU and ZL1BRC. We can usually find answers.

POWERLINE NETWORKING ADAPTORS

Recently a well known retailer's catalogue mentioned a device intended to use domestic 230 volt wiring to enable data transfer between computers in the same household. A USB cable feeds data from a sending computer into what looks like a plug pack, but is really a small modem. The power wiring carries that signal via a second modem and USB feed into a family receiving computer or radiates to next door. This process is reported to produce nasty interference at frequencies between 2 MHz and over 300 MHz. and seems not to respect domestic boundaries

One website reference is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3yVu5lfaEY> which gives a clear video plus voice commentary to explain the problem. So we can add this to some TV line oscillators, some switch mode power supplies and some plasma TVs as interference sources.

MOBILE USE OF AMATEUR RADIO TRANSMITTERS

Infoline No. 204 from NZART distinguishes such use under the new traffic regulations from such more attention demanding activities as text messaging or cellphone use where a driver may try to run a visually distracting task, or a duplex conversation, and drive all at the same time. Even so, careless driving is always careless driving, whatever you are using, and you may be pulled over on suspicion of using banned equipment, or your insurer may take a dim view if you have an accident while on air. Be careful out there.

H F PROPAGATION

This continues to be disappointing for ZLs, although DX Cluster reports numerous narrow band QSOs on CW and PSK31. Every now and then, at predictable time slots (if you listen for beacons) SSB openings can be heard as far as Asia or Eastern USA (Florida or Long Island) on 10 metres. Come in and see the ZL1AA log book.

Is There a Micro-Supercapacitor in Your Future?

ScienceDaily (Apr. 28, 2010) -- "Just think how often your fancy new mobile phone or computer has become little more than a paperweight because the battery lost its zeal for doing its job," says John Chmiola, a chemist with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab). "At a time when cellphones can do more than computers could do at the beginning of the Clinton presidency, it would be an understatement to say that batteries have not been holding up their end of the mobile device bargain."

Want More? See:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/04/100426092805.htm>

"My ultimate goals are to increase energy stored to levels closer to batteries, and preserve both the million-plus charge-discharge cycles and recharge times of less than five minutes of these devices," says Chmiola. "I think this is what the end users of portable energy storage devices really desire."

Auckland Branch, NZART (Inc.)

Minutes of General Club Meeting

On: Saturday, 17th April 2010 at 1340 hours

At: Branch Clubrooms

Present: ZL1AAR (Chairman); others were recorded in the Attendance Book

Apologies: ZL1FS, ZL1AAA. Sustained ZL1WAL / ZL1CY

Election of Trustee: Recommended by the Committee: **Steve Miller, ZL1FS**

Nominated and declared elected unopposed ZL1AAR / ZL1CY

Finance:

- **Purchase of Kenwood TS450S for \$650.00:** Approved ZL1AAR / ZL1CY
- **Sale of Kenwood TS440S with a reserve of \$300.00:** Approved ZL1AAR / ZL1AJR
- **Progress payment to Estate ZL1BNL of \$330.00** Approved ZL1BRC / ZL1AAR
(being half of the sales proceeds):

Membership:

- Wallace, ZL1WAL reported that letters had been sent to 25 Branch members to follow up payment of subscriptions. Five subs were received bringing the total to 18 (41 last year).
- Letters were sent to 35 out of 62 attached members (70 last year) seeking voting preference and support of this branch. The decline of amateurs is inevitable but those not paying subs is chronic.
- At the conclusion of the meeting a TV advertisement (first shown in Nelson) to attract membership was shown. See www.nzart.org.nz/broadcast/2010/ham_radio_ad.wtty.

Remits: Discussion was held over until the following month's General Meeting when Councillor Vaughan Henderson will be invited to explain these. Meanwhile some members will be attending the VHF Group's meeting when he will be in attendance.

General Business:

1. **Internet:** Jeffery Lowe, ZL1TOU has agreed to permit his Woosh account to be used temporarily for the Remote Station. It needs to be upgraded and the Branch will pay the marginal cost of this (up to \$20.00 per month).
2. **Antennae:**
 - Selwyn, ZL1BRC, made a suggestion to change the position of the VHF antenna and therefore permit the 80m antenna to be run along the boundary behind the clubroom. This is considered a good idea.
 - The 10 metre antenna project needs to be revived to facilitate our AREC readiness.
3. **Tenure:** Wallace reported progress towards obtaining a copy of the ACC /Scarbro lease.
4. **Maintenance:**

Samples of grey were tabled by Selwyn. Loan of the use of water-blasting equipment was offered by Donald and by Ray. Painting will follow.

Meeting Closed 1440 hours.

AUCKLAND BRANCH, NZART (inc.)

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Time / Date / Place: 1930 hours; Tuesday, 4th May 2010; Clubroom

Attendees: Gwynne Rowe, ZL1AAR (Chairman); Peter Ellis, ZL1LS (VP); Wallace Bottomley, ZL1WAL (Secretary / Treasurer); Japie Nels, ZL1JJN, (AREC); Steve Miller, ZL1FS; Selwyn Ross, ZL1BRC; Ray Chapman, ZL1AJR.

Apologies: George Marr ZL1TUJ and Brian Wilson ZL1UBX (appointed by George as proxy)
Sustained ZL1WAL / ZL1AJR

Minutes of the previous Committee meeting on 6th April 2010:

Taken as read and approved ZL1AAR / ZL1AJR

Matters arising: See Correspondence, Finance and General Business

Correspondence In:

1. Newsletters from neighbouring branches Franklin, Western, Hibiscus Coast, Papakura, North Shore; VHF
2. Subscriptions from 8 members, including donation of \$100 for maintenance from Bill Schlef.
3. Applications from 3 new members in response to the mail-out of 35 letters to hams attached to Auckland Branch by NZART.
4. QSL from 3 hams; 2 saying they had requested NZART to transfer their attachment to another branch.
5. Leith Jackson – resignation and return of keys.
6. Secretary – Memo about Membership statistics and trends.
7. ACC – lease with Scarbro Ltd.– asking why do we want it?
8. Selwyn – reporting clubroom drainage problems during recent downpour.
9. Selwyn - contributions to newsletter:
 - a. Consideration of Remit 4 (entry level licence).
 - b. Sympathy to Bill Schlef re passing of his dog, Bon Bon.
 - c. Conference Award competition (making 30 + contacts in greater Auckland area).
10. Selwyn – Branch 29 require our email address.
11. Selwyn – Advising that Vaughan Henderson had agreed to attend our General Meeting on 15th May.
12. Japie – AREC liaison contacts.

Matters arising:

- Secretary is to write to Bill giving thanks for his donation and his service as Trustee.
- ZL1AA web page re meeting dates (previously correct), needs to be amended.

Correspondence Out:

1. ACC - requesting copy of their lease with Scarbro
2. ACC - giving reason for requesting copy of lease
3. Mark Twiname – requesting return of key; and asking for him to review Remote Station policy manual.
4. Jeffrey Lowe – requesting use of his Woosh account
5. Secretaries of all neighbouring branches requesting email address so that we can send our newsletters
6. Invitation to Vaughan Henderson to attend our next General Meeting of Branch

Correspondence In received; and Out; approved ZL1WAL / ZL1AJR

Finance:

The Treasurer presented a Finance report for the year to date

Received ZL1WAL / ZL1AAR

Matters arising:

1. Revaluation of equipment in Balance Sheet. Deferred.
2. The General Meeting gave approval to transact purchase of Kenwood 450 and sale of Kenwood 440.
3. Last year (and in previous years) Donald, ZL1CY, has paid a share of the cost for use of the Branch's Post Office box. Treasurer noted that Donald has not submitted accounts for postage and distribution costs of newsletters last year. A quid pro quo settlement was reached with Donald to offset his costs by allowing gratis use of the P. O. box this year.
4. Steve reported that Donald had donated \$150.00 to purchase materials for the urgent repair of guttering and drainage. Steve will purchase the materials, then account to the Treasurer afterwards.
5. Steve presented one new membership application and subscription during the meeting.
6. Donation to Brian Scarborough deferred until copy of Scarbro / ACC lease agreement is obtained

Expenses requiring approval for payment

R Higgins - Lawns April - \$30.00

Selwyn – Operating chair \$25.00, Curtain rail \$36, Spouting \$7.00

Approved ZL1AAR / ZL1AJR

- **Applications for funding:** Applicable only to future planned projects, e.g. a remotely controlled antenna switch. Decided to defer until next funding round and/or when George, ZL1TUJ, is fit to assist.

Minutes of Committee Meeting (Continued)

General business:

1. AREC Report:

Japie, ZL1JJN, reported that he had made contact with Auckland AREC Section and our Branch is now listed on their website. Because no reports had been filed with them since 2008, Auckland Branch had been deleted. An access code is required for him to update this website. Steve will recover from Leith Jackson (previous AREC section leader) the AREC procedure file. Six members have made themselves available for AREC call-outs.

2. Program for General Meetings:

- Various suggestions were made for planning future meetings: speakers, visits, etc.
- This month 15th May, Vaughan Henderson will attend to speak about remits.
- Next month Gwynne will report on the Conference.
- Unless 20 members indicate interest to visit Motat, no discount is obtainable.

3. Maintenance (in order of priority):

- Guttering and drainage around the clubrooms.
- Water-blasting, finish painting windows and hanging curtains.
- Build folding lockable cover for Station 1. Graham O'Neill, ZL1ONL, will do this.
- Repairing and painting roof – Wallace to get quotation.
- Smoke alarm – Gwynne will purchase one suitable for connecting to the alarm system.
- Sign at gate entrance needs repainting and meeting dates and times to be updated.
- Re-blocking. Wallace to get quotation.
- Painting walls and base of clubroom.

3. Antennas (in order of Priority):

- Replace VHF antenna with a simpler model.
- Complete erection of the 80m antenna (already made up) along the boundary.
- Erect 10 m half wavelength vertical antenna (since repaired); but it is suitable for 25w .
- Realignment of the beam – wait until Steve returns when his truck can be used.

4. NZART AGM and Conference:

- Votes for each remit will be counted at the General Meeting on 15th May 2010 at 13:30.
- Committee recommends nomination of Gwynne Rowe as delegate at the NZART AGM.
- The question of who is going to the NZART conference is to be put in the newsletter with offers of transport by those already known to be going. Contact Gwynne.

5. ZL1LC G N Reed operating a field station as Branch 02 in Jock White Competition:

- By operating as "Branch 02" he detracted from points that we might have got.
- He is not an Auckland branch member; but he is attached to 02 Branch by NZART.
- Letters were written to him on 11 June 2009 and on 9 April 2010 but no QSL ever received.
- S Watchman's report of the competition commented that no logs were submitted by ZL1LC.
- Selwyn will research the rules of the competition, with a view to recommend the following:
- that the rules of the competition should state that a field station operating in one's area should be a financial member of the branch and should operate only with the consent of the Branch.

6. Newsletter / Membership:

- Gwynne offered various suggestions about newsletters: Hard copy? NZART Info-line? Editor?
- Meanwhile Wallace suggested that each Committee member select one month in which to contribute copy (but obtain permission by / give credit to original author). Selwyn this month.
- Wallace submitted a paper on membership decline (20%). Of 60 letters sent out, the response was 10%. He cited anecdotal reasons for inactivity to which the Committee agreed. With revenue from subs falling, and subsidies by Local Bodies being withdrawn, more of the 18 out of 88 branches will go into recess / amalgamation., Our future plans are predicated on our tenure (under investigation). Meanwhile we need to recruit younger able-bodied members necessary to sustain the various physical tasks requiring to be done at the clubroom, else pay.

Remote station:

- *Jeffrey Lowe, ZL1TOU has agreed to allow his Woosh account to be used and will visit the club-room to make the initial connection using the modem on loan by Steve.*
- *A Policy Manual was written last year and issued for review – awaiting responses.*
- *A remote switching device for antennas is needed next. Wallace to research and report cost.*
- *Skype is needed for security monitoring and should not be tied up by the remote station.*
- *Choice of Ham Radio Deluxe software is moot since the display does not resemble the K3.*
- *Wallace to enquire from two of our club members who are remotely operating their rigs.*

Meeting Closed 21:50 followed by supper with scones baked by Peter, ZL1LS.

NZART AUCKLAND CONFERENCE AWARD

Here is an opportunity for Auckland Branch members to make new friends on air by giving out contacts (free) or by trying to accumulate award points themselves (which counts only if they apply for an award certificate. The details could hardly be easier to follow.

Conference Award 2010: The Award is open to all amateur operators and will run from 1st May 2010 until 8.30am on 4th June (incl).

To obtain the basic award, **30** points are required – 1 point for each contact.

Same call-sign is allowed once daily 0001-2400 NZT.

Points will be issued for contacts with any operators in “**The Auckland Area**” The Auckland Area is the area covered in the Auckland White Pages phonebook.

QSO's on any band /mode.

Logs require: Date /Time /Band /Mode /Call-sign /Operator's name contacted and points claimed.

Endorsements for 50 /100 /150 or more points.

Cost: Basic Award \$5.00. Endorsements \$1.00 extra.

2010 NZART SANGSTER SHIELD QRP CW CONTEST

When :- Saturday, 15 May 2010 and Sunday, 16 May 2010

Times :- 2000 NZST until 2300 NZST each evening

Band :- 80m

Mode :- CW only.

The contest was established in 1927 at the time the late Mr. Ralph Sangster presented to the radio Amateurs of NZ the trophy, known as the Sangster Shield, for annual competition to be won by the most efficient station. It is pertinent to note not only did the efficiency of the station be taken into account, but also the efficiency of the operator concerned. The terms of the gift of the trophy were that the competition was to be conducted on the 80 metre band using input power of not more than 5 watts and to be solely restricted to Morse operation.

2010 NZART MEMORIAL CONTEST

When :- 3 & 4 July 2010

Times :- 2000 NZST until 2300 NZST both evenings

Band :- 80m

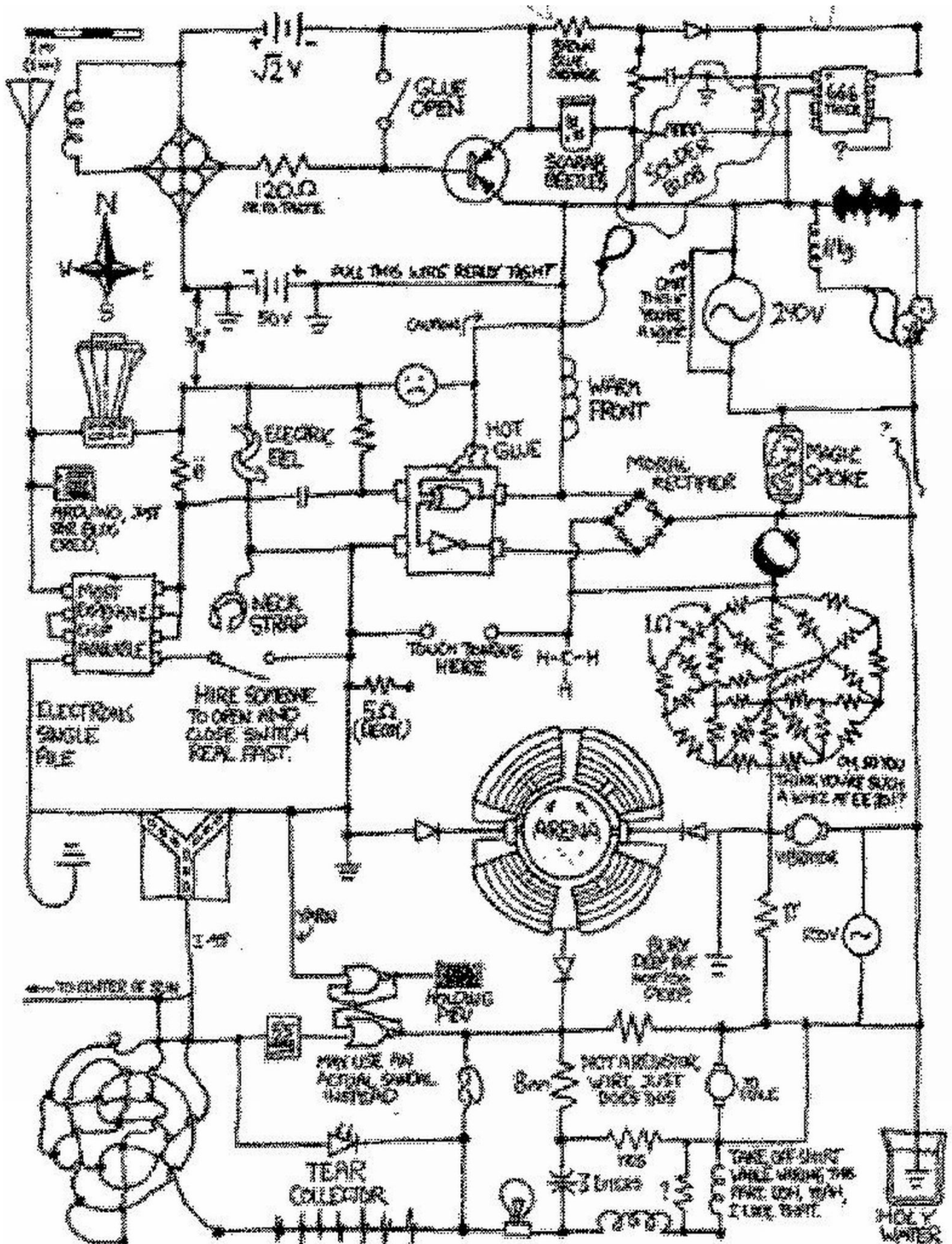
Modes :- CW and Phone

The Memorial Contest was established soon after the end of World War 2 to commemorate those who lost their lives in the service of their country. It is a fitting way to honour those Hams and others who selflessly served their country so that we, today, may enjoy the freedoms that we do. The Contest is split into a number of categories catering for all HF interests so please spare an hour, or two to honour those who paid the ultimate price that we now enjoy in our present lifestyles. Contest Rules and Other Operating Information is available from the NZART Website :-

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/contests/index.html>

Projects Corner:

Vice President Peter, ZL1LS, is looking for submissions from members for various home brew projects that the club can build. This submission has potential he thinks. Volunteers required to help?



"WILL AMATEUR RADIO BE KILLED BY SINGLE SIDEBAND?"

Editor "A.R.," Dear Sir,

Single sideband has more talk power than ancient modulation and will punch through where the other cannot. It does not set up heterodynes with other stations because the carrier is missing. It occupies less bandwidth because one sideband is missing.

This we all know and appreciate. But have we considered the cost? Not only the beautiful dollars for the transceiver and the beam, but also the cost in other directions. Consider the young short wave listener. He was (past tense) a lad whose sole equipment was the domestic radio with shortwave facility. This enabled him to listen to VK2AAA talking to VK3BBB. His interest was immediately kindled and he lost no time in making enquiries, and in many cases eventually became an Amateur himself.

His modern counterpart has his own transistor radio but when he switches to shortwave what does he hear on the Amateur bands but a lot of indecipherable duck talk? His interest is lost in about ten seconds, during which he decides the fault is not in his radio; there must be something wrong with that transmission, whatever it may be. The spark, never having been kindled in the first place, cannot become a flame and the lad's interest moves off in some other direction.

If the places left by "Silent Keys" are not filled by young lads (and lasses) then sometime in the not very distant future the ranks of Amateur Radio are going to be considerably thinned. The question arises, "Will Amateur Radio be killed by single sideband?"

Our hobby is worth nurturing; it has something of interest to give to the community. We have derived a lot of pleasure from it so

let us share it with the up and coming. How? By blowing the dust off that old a.m. gear and using it occasionally, especially on short-haul contacts, where it works quite well and, secondly, by developing and using low power transistorised a.m. equipment which can be built by the relatively unskilled (incidentally, how many people build their own s.s.b. equipment?) at a cost of a few dollars and which is powered at sub-lethal voltages, for example, from a 12-volt car battery.

—G. Craggs, VK2AYG.

*Was this a sign of
the times? [Ed.]*

*Extract from:
"Amateur Radio"
Dec 1972.*

THE FUTURE OF NZART

Council are seeking: a one A4 page submission from all transmitting amateurs on this important concern. In the subject line write:

"Submission on The Future of NZART from"

Then in the body state:

Submission on The Future of NZART from"

followed by your name, call sign, postal address, and date.

Add your NZART Membership Number too - or a statement that you are a current TRANSMITTING Member.

Constructive comments are wanted. Consider the present NZART circumstances and financial position as your start point. You are referred to March/April 2010 Break-In".

Send by 27th May 2010 to nzart.hq@clear.net.nz or post to NZART HQ at Box 40-525, Upper Hutt, 5140 in time for consideration before the AGM.

NZART's principal concerns are the interests of its Transmitting Members.