



New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters

ZL1AA - AUCKLAND BRANCH 02

MAY

2018



General Meeting



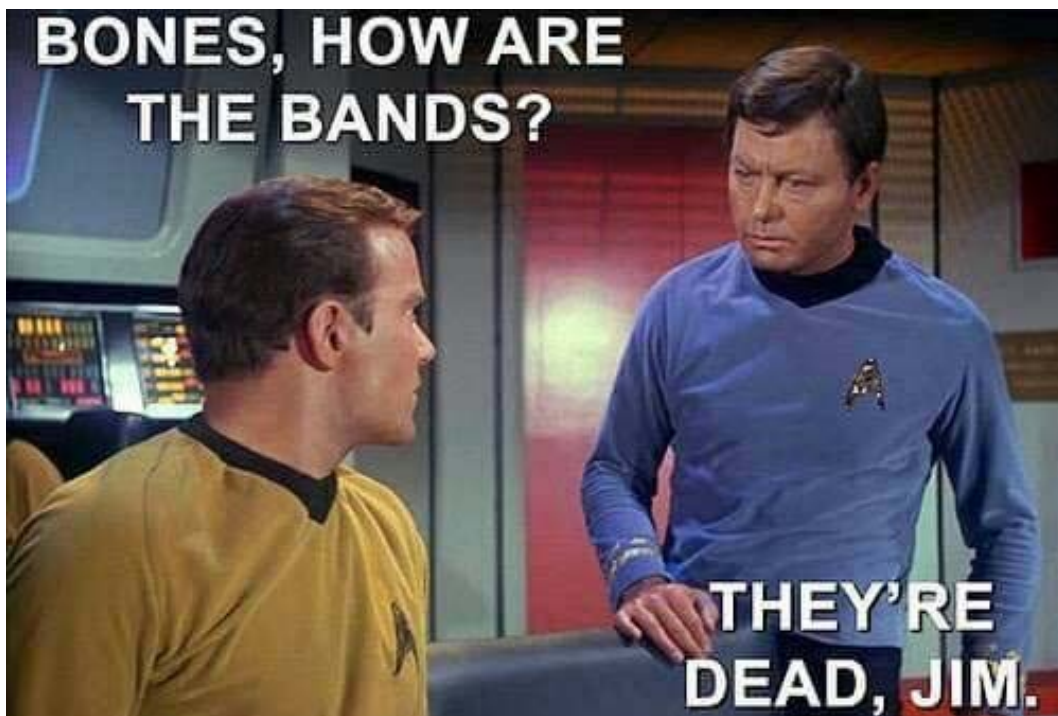
SATURDAY May 19 @ 13:30

Howard Buxton, ZL1BXA

NZART Northern District Councilor

Club Room will open at 10:30 AM

BBQ @ 12:00



NZART Sangster Shield Contest: May 19 / 20

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
zl1xsxz@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
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Web Master:

Andrei Chatalov, ZL1TM
achatz@gmail.com

Librarian:

Olivier Wardecki, ZL1XS
zl1xsxz@gmail.com

Station Trustees:

George Marr, ZL1TUU
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...

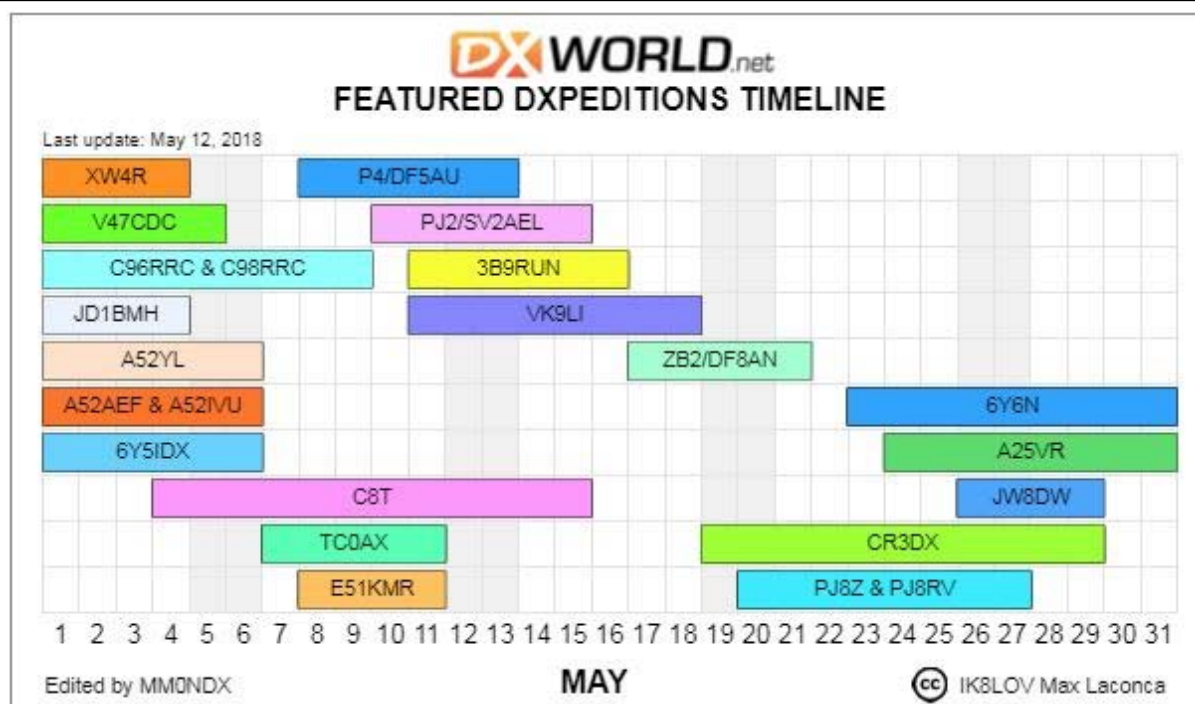
I would like to thank Wallace, ZL1WAL for stepping in for me to complete the newsletter, as my schedule was full, completing work projects prior to my scheduled trip to 3D2 for the JIDX CW Contest. It was nice to leave the cooler temperatures for the low 30s for a few days.

The club SOTA event organized by Soren, ZL1SKL turned out to be a success. It motivated me to jump in the car Saturday morning and drive 75 Km North to Moir Hill, just past Puhoi. This was my first SOTA Activation.

This month we have Howard Buxton, ZL1BXA our Local NZART Councilor joining us on Saturday. He will enlighten us on all things NZART. If you have any questions or Input, here is your opportunity. He might even share some stories about operating from OC-201 on a regular basis.



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>

MAY 14-21

- Portuguese Navy Day Contest: May 18 - 20
- Slobzhansky Sprint Contest: May 18
- UN DX Contest: May 19
- **NZART Sangster Shield Contest: May 19 / 20**
- His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW: May 19 / 20
- EU PSK DX Contest: May 19 / 20

MAY 22-29

- **CQ WW WPX Contest, CW: May 26 / 27**
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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 May Committee Meeting

Place / Date / Time: Clubroom, Tuesday, 1st May 2018 at 1932 hours

Present: Wes ZL3TE presiding, Wallace ZL1WAL, Jeff ZL1TOU, Steve ZL1FS, Japie ZL1JJN, Gwynne ZL1AAR, Olivier ZL1XS, Jim ZL1TGS; and Ken ZL1TJL, Soren ZL1SKL.

Minutes: of the previous Committee meeting on Tuesday 3rd April 2018 was circulated. Adopted ZL1WAL / ZL1TGS

Correspondence:

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

Branch reflector of Newsletters from North Canterbury, Hastings / Napier, Rotorua, Hamilton, Gisborne, Musick Point

Logan ZL1LMN – Correction to Remote Station login screen.

Invitations sent to six licence passes at University (studying Satellite project) to join Branch

Colleen Dubbs (Ray's niece) / Public Trustee advising that Secretary had taken 12 boxes of radios from Ray's unlocked garage. No response received from Public Trustee.

Peter ZL1XA confirming his order of Eight-Pak Integrated Push Button Controller.

NZART list of 64 Members "attached" to Auckland Branch (to be used for voting on NZART remits).

NZART asking about repeaters being hosted on various towers. (This does not concern Auckland Branch).

Received and approved ZL1WAL / ZL1AAR

Finance:

Finance Report: 1st Nov 2017 – 1st May 2018 was circulated.

Received ZL1TOU / ZL1WAL

Expenses for approval:

Meadowbank Pony club	Lawns	\$25.00 (second payment)
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Robert Dean ZL2RED	Refund key deposit	\$10.00
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Ross Higgins	Lawns 2016-17	\$150.00 (pending presentation of previous payment)
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Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1TGS

Steel South Auckland Ltd	Steel plate	\$345.00
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Recommend for approval at General Meeting ZL1WAL / ZL1TOU

Conference:

Appointment of Gwynne ZL1AAR as Branch Delegate

Recommend to General Meeting ZL1WAL / ZL1TGS

Remits:

Cease paper copy of Call-book

Opt out of receiving Call-book

Ease nationality restrictions for obtaining a licence in NZ

Review Association books by **suitably** qualified person (not necessarily ACA)

Change reporting deadline for Association financial year-end

Defer for consideration and vote at General Meeting on 19th May. ZL1AAR / ZL3TE

Reports:

SOTA: Soren gave an account of the outing to Mt Eden and Wes to Moire Hill, at which about 10 Members participated as activators and chasers logging 20 QSOs. It was enjoyable despite a downpour. Soren will submit copy for publication in the next newsletter.

Maintenance outstanding: Internal electric wiring; Front step replacement; Painting exterior west walls. No progress.

Lawn mowing: The Meadowbank Pony Club grounds-man did a second cut using the tractor, but it was not as neat a job as a ride-on mower would do. Steve reports that their Committee has to meet to decide to accept this regular job assignment. Alternatively we could ask to hire their ride-on mower. Other quotations will be sought.

AREC: Whangarei Car Rally on 5-6th May. Japie is heading north on Friday.

Generator: Japie has serviced it. The fuel tank needs to be repainted.

QSL; Exams; Visitors; Web page; Nothing to report

Nets: Wednesday will be proposed at the next General Meeting. A 40 m net is requested for another time.

Newsletter: Distribute Remote Station Policy document to financial Members only

Remotely controlled station:

The Log-on screen has been amended to invite overseas listeners to join Branch.

It is not on-line at present.

Wes outlined plans to automate band switching using the remote switch gifted by Peter ZL1XA.

Phone line:

Vodafone have agreed credit our bank account with four months' charges (\$260) since we have had no usage since 24 October 2017 and Vodafone did not action our cancellation request.

Simon will implement Wifi function using the old Vodafone modem.

Membership:

Names of 12 Members were read out who did not pay invoices for outstanding subs; nor did they respond.

Final notices (as required by our Constitution) will be sent warning that their names will be purged.

Life Member Selwyn ZL1BRC is hospitalized; his NZART membership has lapsed. Wallace will send card.

Meter reading: 51287.7

(May. Committee Meeting Minutes Continued on page 5)

Antennas / Project plans:

The plate will be ready on Friday 4th May, though this project will be done the following week. The plan is for Japie and Steve to hoist plinth; purchase Chem-set (from Ramset) and order drilling.

Quote obtained:

Rods: 1m x 20mm	OD	Grade 304	\$49.00 ea.	Grade 316	\$60.76 ea.
Nuts: M20		Grade 304	\$2.56 ea.	Grade 316	\$3.03 ea.
Total cost for 4 rods and 16 nuts:			\$237.00	or	\$291.00

Antenna(s) for Yaesu FT736R at HF3. To be scheduled.

Removal of tower at Murrays Bay. Project abandoned. North Shore clubs will be invited.

Concrete base for Satellite antenna to stabilize it – not urgent unless new Members want to use it.

Wes outlined plans to automate band switching for the Remote station.

Future Events / entertainment / speakers

Invite Howard Buxton, NZART Northern Region Councillor, to speak to us on 19th May. Wes will ask him.

Digital modes demo.

Invite Richard Gamble, Dave Wilkins to make an AREC presentation.

Musick Point Radio Society Branch - ARDF talk by ZL1WAL and event – not yet scheduled.

Components:

Photographs of surplus gear at Vector – has already been reviewed and considered worthless to us. Nevertheless, Soren and Jim will visit their storeroom at Wellsford. Auckland VHF Group may provide better use of their gear.

Committee will continue to reorganize inventory of shelves / lookup and write selling blurb, and set prices ready to promote on TradeMe – a big job but has been lucrative based on previous experience.

Various cartons containing components need to be merged with the components in the storeroom and then relocated to make them more accessible. Old components should be dumped.

Valves have already been catalogued but the list needs to be advertised.

Decide which rigs to return to owners / sell / dump / keep for lending to (new) Members.

Ray's radios (that are held in trust for the Public Trustee) will be locked in our steel vault until probate is granted. Members' interest has been noted, though it may take six months until items are available for sale.

The grey shelves behind VHF2 position, need to be relocated and put to better use.

Review:

Value and insure equipment within the clubrooms.

First aid kit; Fire extinguisher, Alarm surveillance.

Draft By-laws / House rules: These need to be carefully reviewed before recommending to General Meeting.

Defer until the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 21:52 hours.

The SOTA Activation was the Activity planned in place of the General Meeting as previously published.

The Great Branch 02 SOTA Summit Ascent

By Soren Low, ZL1SKL

Summits on the Air, or SOTA, originated in the UK in the early 2000's. It is an awards program that encourages ham radio operators to set up portable stations from hilltop high points and work other hams to gain points.

Points are awarded to these portable stations ("activators") and also to those who contact them ("chasers"). There are some simple rules – these outline the requirements for qualifying "summits", what constitutes the "activation zone" and other details. Importantly, two key points to know are firstly that the final access must be non-motorised (so on foot or bicycle are OK) and that you need to be powered from a portable power source which excludes fossil-fuel generators.

So, in real terms, this means that you can drive to the summit (where you can), but your station needs to be set up away from the vehicle and you can not use it to power the rig. And while there are some drive-to summits, the majority need some hiking. So that means a long, hard think about what you actually *need* to work from the top of that hill.

With this in mind, it was time to plan an outing for Branch 02!

Looking around Auckland, you would imagine we have a whole bunch of summits to choose from. Hills such as Mount Wellington, Mount Hobson – and, of course – One Tree Hill are sure starters, right?

Well, actually, no. There are a number of rules that apply for a summit to qualify. From the clubrooms, our closest summit is Mount Eden – about seven kilometres away.

Other local summits include Rangitoto and "ZL1/AK-018" located near Clevedon.

With the summit identified, it was time to get on the air. The date was set for our April monthly meeting activity and was duly publicised through the newsletter.

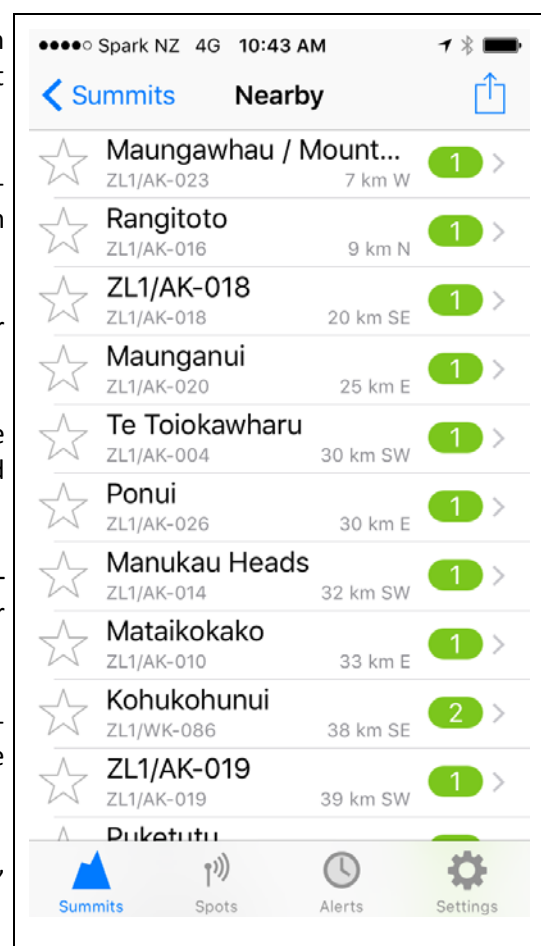
The day itself dawned a bit grey and gloomy. Not that it matters – SOTA activators are a hardy lot and a bit of rain wasn't going to deter us.

After meeting at the clubrooms, we split into two groups – the mountain goats who were going to scale the summit, and those who were going to hold the fort and ensure we had someone to talk to.

Simon, ZL1SWW (and his daughter, Jenna), Olivier, ZL1XS, Jim, ZL1TGS, new member Andy and myself set off towards Mount Eden.

For first-time SOTA activators, Mount Eden is a great starting place. The walk from the bottom carpark is less than ten minutes and for those less mobile, it is possible to get a gate code that will allow you to drive all the way to the top. It wasn't long before we were starting to unpack and get on the air.

Simon, ZL1SWW covered 2m simplex with his handheld and also brought along some 1296MHz gear. I used my FT-817 and link-dipole to cover 20 and 40 metres. The great thing about SOTA is you don't need much kit. A car starter battery for power, small QRP rig, fibreglass telescopic pole and basic antenna is all you need to get contacts flowing.



Screenshot from the Ham Alert app showing summits nearby Branch 02



L-R Jenna, Simon, ZL1SWW, Jim, ZL1TGS, Andy and Olivier, ZL1XS busy on the summit of Mount Eden

First in the log was Jeff, ZL1TOU on 40 metres. Second up was Harry, ZL1BK – first on 1296MHz with Simon and quickly afterwards with Andy on 40 metres.

We took a short break as a rain storm passed by. One of the downsides of SOTA is that you have to be prepared for all weathers!

It wasn't long before we were able to make a couple of "Summit to Summit" contacts, firstly with Warren, ZL2AJ who was activating Sanatorium Hill outside Hamilton. Warren is well known in ZL SOTA circles being the country manager and having had a very heavy hand in getting SOTA off the ground here. Our second was with Wes, ZL3TE who was operating portable from ZL1/AK-011, Moir Hill, another SOTA hilltop.

Jim, ZL1TGS did a great job of keeping the log and giving help and guidance to Andy and Jenna as they took their turns behind the mic.

We were well supported by members who "chased" us, either from the club, their QTH or mobile. This goes to show how easy it is to get involved in SOTA – it is not just about walking up hills and getting caught in the rain!

Time	Call	Band	Mode	Notes
00:10z	ZL1TOU	7MHz	SSB	S59 / R59 - Jeff
00:11z	ZL1BK	Microwave	SSB	S59 / R59 - Harry (1296.1MHz)
00:19z	ZL1BK	7MHz	SSB	S59 / R59 - Harry
00:23z	ZL3JD	7MHz	SSB	S59 / R59
00:24z	ZL1JJN	144MHz	FM	S59 / R59 - Japie
00:26z	ZL1AAR	144MHz	FM	S59 / R59 - Gwynne
00:27z	ZL1TOU	144MHz	FM	S59 / R59 - Jeff
00:29z	ZL1WA	7MHz	SSB	S54 / R54 - Jacky
00:35z	ZL2AJ	14MHz	SSB	S59 / R59 - Warren
00:38z	ZL3TE	14MHz	SSB	S59 / R59 - Wes
00:49z	VK7JON	14MHz	SSB	S58 / R42 - John
00:53z	VK3CAT	14MHz	SSB	S57 / R45 - Tony
00:54z	ZL1AOX	Microwave	SSB	S59 / R59 - Ian (1296.1MHz)
00:55z	ZL1AOX	14MHz	SSB	S59 / R59 - Ian
00:59z	VK2IO	14MHz	SSB	S41 / R31 - Gerard
01:03z	ZL1WAL	144MHz	FM	S59 / R59 - Wallace
01:04z	ZL1FS	144MHz	FM	S59 / R59 - Steve
01:07z	ZL1RCC	7MHz	SSB	S59 / R59 - Roy
01:12z	ZL1BYZ	7MHz	SSB	S53 / R53 - John
01:18z	ZL1TJL	14MHz	SSB	S59 / R59 - Ken

The ZL1AA activator log from www.sota.org.uk

Warning – SOTA can be addictive!

When I first read about SOTA, not long after I got into ham radio, it immediately struck me as something I wanted to try. I spent the first year or so simply chasing and then eventually thought that getting up a hill was well overdue. My first summit was Mount Auckland (north of Helensville) before Christmas. Since then, I've really got the bug and try to get up a hill once a month or so.

SOTA Resources

SOTA is very well catered for when it comes to resources. There are phone apps for both IOS and Android that allow you to find nearby summits, get advised when people activate, and allow you to tell others that you are either planning to head up a hill or are there and QRV.

<https://www.sota.org.uk/> is the internet home of SOTA internationally and [this is where you log your chasing and activating](#). Putting "ZL SOTA" into Google will bring you up plenty of local resources. There is also a ZL SOTA Facebook page which is very active and a great way to communicate with others. A number of SOTA activators write about their exploits, these blogs and posts are invaluable when trying to work out what summits are publicly accessible and exactly how to get there and what track to follow.

And if you feel like having a go but don't want to do it alone, let me know and I'd welcome your company on my next hill climb!

Thanks to all who participated at our April outing, either by hiking to the lofty heights of Mount Eden or by being there on the other end of the QSO. It was a great few hours and well supported by club members and others.

ZL1/AK-011, Moir Hill, SOTA Activation

Friday night, I had a thought about doing my first SOTA Activation. The Main Event for the Club had been planned to do a SOTA activation on Mount Eden, organized by Soren, ZL1SKL.

My thoughts were, why have everyone in the same place, so I had a look at the [SOTA Map for the Auckland Region](#). As this was my first activation, I wanted reasonable access without tramping for hours in and out, as I had other things planned for the afternoon. There are quite a few summits to choose from, but as Mt Eden was already staked out, I opted for Moir Hill.

I loaded the car on Saturday AM, and pointed it North. I activated the [APRSDroid](#) software on my phone, to capture my journey as seen to the right. Looking at my trip, I should have used Lincoln Road, rather than Te Atatu Road.

Upon arrival the summit, I was happy to see a nice grassy spot, to set up. After locating the "Official" Summit point I set up the antenna, table, and the KX3. Operation has to be within a certain distance from the summit.

Propagation on 40 meters was a bit long at the time, and could just barely hear Warren, ZL2AJ, but not enough to make a contact. Not hearing ZL1AA, I contacted Soren, and we QSYd to 20M. We were successful here. I worked all the operators with Soren, to qualify for the Activator Points. Minimum of 4 QSOs required.

As the photos show, it was a bit overcast, and windy, but the rain held off until I had descended the hill towards the main road. It was an enjoyable exercise, and I learned a few things.

73, Wes, ZL3TE

