



Auckland Branch 02, NZART

NEWSLETTER

November 2010



Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 14th December 2010 at 1330 hours

Agenda:

- Acceptance of Reports
- Presentation of Financial Accounts
- Setting subscriptions for 2011
- Election of Officers (Nominations should be given to Secretary before meeting starts)
- General Business

CONTEST NAME

Boat Anchor Sprint

AREC on-air test

FOX HUNT starting at clubroom 1330 hours

QSL by 17th Nov please if you intend to take part and tell me if you will have your own sniffer.

Kiwi Digital Modes Group Twin Sprint Contest

VHF/UHF/SHF Contest VHF/UHF/SHF Field Day

VHF/UHF/SHF Contest DX Weekend

DATE

13 November

13 November at 1900 to 2100 hours

20 November See next page for description of the event

4 & 5 December <http://www.vhf.org.nz/VHF-UHF-SHF-ContestRules>

4 & 5 December <http://www.nzart.org.nz/html/2009/digital-contest-dec.html>

6 & 7 February <http://www.vhf.org.nz/VHF-UHF-SHF-ContestRules>

RULES

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/contests/2010/boat-anchor-sprint-rules.html>

Memo: The Auckland Branch Committee
From: Wallace, ZL1WAL
Subject: **Fox hunting event on 20th November 2010**

In the October 2010 newsletter I provided an internet link <http://www.homingin.com/> to assist members to find out more about ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding). I shall assume that you watched the 6 minute video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPLWCc_rDgk because it is worth a thousand words. Originally known as "Fox Hunting", this pursuit has borrowed mapping standards from Orienteering to become an international sport with world and regional championships held in alternate years. The 8th Oceania (region 3) championship will be held near Melbourne in the last week of September 2011. There, they hold Local ADRF events every month.

Meanwhile in Auckland, about 200 Orienteers attend summer events after work once a week in one of our parks. Entrants pay \$5.00 for a map on which the locations of the controls are marked. In winter, events are held on Sundays in the forests of Waiuku or Woodhill. This is the ideal sort of terrain for ARDF championships where 80 metres and 2 metres are used on alternate days. Auckland Branch has elected to use 80 metres, while Christchurch branch has equipment for 2 metres only. VHF has the added challenge of reflected signals and shadows – more than enough for us to cope with just now.

Whereas international courses are set to cater for men and women in age groups: <19 years; 21 (open); <35; <45; <65; and 65+ and the winner is expected to take one hour to complete the course – achieved by nominating one or more of the five foxes to be omitted – I shall set courses for only three age groups: <35; <65; and 65+. Thus the distance to be travelled by each participant in each age group will be: 5 km, 4 km and 3 km respectively. For our first event, cars may be used in St Heliers.

And whereas international rules stipulate that each transmitter (fox) cycles through being switched on for 1 minute then off for four minutes, instead we shall run our foxes continuously. Each fox is identified by sending Morse codes: MOE, MOI, MOS, MOH and MO5 on 3.510 MHz, 3.520, 3.530, 3.540 and 3.550 respectively and 6,7,8, and 9 in Morse on 3.560, 3.570, 3.580 and 3.590 respectively. The homing beacon sends MO on 3.600 MHz at 8 words per minute, all QRP.

On the day of the event, participants enter their name, age group, contact, etc., on a coloured clip card according to age group and pay the entry fee. At 5 minute intervals, the starter writes the next start time (using unique ink) on the clip card of three participants, one from each group, and keeps the duplicate portion of it (in case of the need for Search and Rescue). Then they will be allowed to pick up their sniffer from the start table, switch it on and start hunting. Participants will need a pencil to draw DF bearings on their map. As each fox is found, (it will not be hidden, rather it will be clearly visible because below each fox is an orange and white prism-shaped flag and clipper), they copy /clip its symbol onto their card to prove to the Official at the finish, that they found the foxes. He computes the elapsed time and pegs the card in winning order on a line.

The winners of each group are those having the least elapsed time. As winners are announced at the end of the afternoon, it is usual for them to describe the actual route that they took. Thus we may all learn how to improve our DF technique, to make better route choices, and to think quickly and decisively on our feet. Like many sports (e.g. golf), one is inspired to have a better round next time.

ADRF is easily staged using present equipment to cope with a participation of about 40. I have the vision of running inter-branch events in a variety of 40 venues throughout greater Auckland, some in parks and others in open forest, using existing orienteering maps. It is hoped that such events may attract young people to our hobby, to engage in home-building kitsets and antennas so as to improve their performance. Who knows, there may emerge a representative for NZ at the Oceania championship next year.



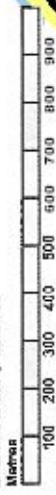
AUCKLAND BRANCH

New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters Inc.

St Heliers

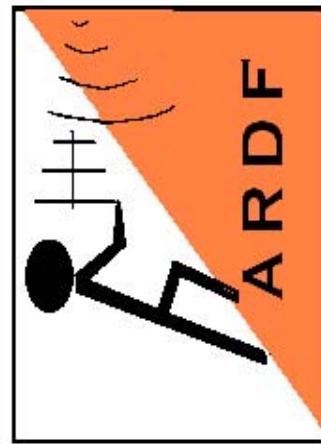
Drawn by Central Orienteering Club, Auckland

Contour: 20m



N Magnetic

| LEGEND | |
|--------|------------------|
| | Road |
| | Pathway |
| | Contour |
| | Foreshore |
| | Telephone |
| | Structure |
| | Private property |
| | Public space |
| | Bush |



Start

Finish

AUCKLAND BRANCH, NZART (inc.)

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Date / Time / Place: Tuesday, 2nd November 2010; 1735 hours; Clubroom.

Attendees: Gwynne Rowe, ZL1AAR, (Chairman); Peter Ellis, ZL1LS, (VP); Wallace Bottomley, ZL1WAL (Secretary / Treasurer); Steve Miller, ZL1FS (Immediate Past Pres.); Selwyn Ross, ZL1BRC; George Marr, ZL1TUJ; Ray Chapman, ZL1AJR; Japie Nel, ZL1JJN, (AREC)

Apologies: James Knightly, ZL1KNI.

Sustained ZL1AAR / ZL1WAL

Minutes of the previous Committee meeting on 5th October 2010:

Taken as read and accepted ZL1AAR / ZL1TUJ

- **Arising:** A General meeting did not take place in October for want of a quorum. Wallace apologized to Steve (guest speaker) for not properly announcing its date in the newsletter.

Correspondence In:

- Newsletters from neighbouring branches and Radio Clubs: Hibiscus Coast Radio Society (Oct and Nov); VHF; Franklin; North Shore; Papakura; Suburban – advertising their “Hamfest and car boot sale” on 13th November at Musick Point.
- Newsletter from Hamsphere supporting JOTA and offering a contest in the future.
- NZART Call-book
- NZ Post declining our application for Community postage subsidy
- Letter from Tom McDonald, Secretary of Clan Donald advising of their meeting on Sunday 7th November.
- Emails from Selwyn on the subjects of:
 - Takings from Western Branch Sale;
 - NZART has confirmed Debby Morgan as ARX.
 - Regulations about Register of Members for Incorporated Societies.
- Minutes of last AREC meeting. The next meeting is to be held at this Branch on 18 November at 1930.
- NZART approval of application for Wallace to be an Examination Supervisor.
- WIA advising Oceania Regional ARDF Championships will be held near Melbourne in late September 2011. 400 + are expected to attend. ARDF events are held in Melbourne monthly.
- Wallace’s memo to Committee outlining his plans for the Fox hunting event on 20 November.

Received ZL1WAL / ZL1AAR

Correspondence Out:

- Email acknowledging Clan Donald’s request to use the clubroom. A contract form for the key was attached.
- Advising Selwyn that a new student requires to be examined in late November.

Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1AAR

Matters arising:

- The Membership Register needs to have “Date Joined” to satisfy Incorporated Societies regulations and should show the dates of admission and resignation of members since incorporation. (QSL please. Ed)
- Thanks were accorded to Selwyn for his efforts at the Western Branch Sale.
- AREC meeting attendees (25) expect “dinner” at our Branch. Japie invited the Committee to attend.
- Warren Harris, ZL2ARJ, President of Hawkes Bay Branch has been appointed as Deputy ARX to provide competence to examine in the event of a new PIB45 being issued by MED. He replaces Fred Johnstone
- Hibiscus Coast Radio Society has an Emergency Radio Operators Team (EROT) rather than AREC.

Finance: The Treasurer presented a Finance report for the year to date.

Received ZL1WAL / ZL1AAR

Expenses requiring approval for payment

- R Higgins – Lawns (3 cuts) in October \$61.75
- Gwynne – BBQ gas \$36.28
- Jeffrey Lowe - Woosh account upgrade \$63.50 for 5 month’s usage at his marginal cost

Approved ZL1AJR / ZL1TUJ

Arising:

- It was agreed that Lawn mowing should be continued with the same contractor.
- The budget includes \$100.00 for the purchase of roof paint this month.

General business:

- **Hamfest and Car boot sale at Suburban Branch, Musick Point on 13 November:**
 - Japie will arrive at the Clubroom in his yellow van at 0800 hours on Saturday.
 - Selwyn and Steve will select junk to be taken.

Minutes of Committee Meeting (Continued)

- **Sale of equipment:**
 - The Branch has some rigs, too good to take to a junk sale. They may also cost too much to repair.
 - These should be properly described on TradeMe and a warning given about any known problems with each so as to avoid "come-backs". Selwyn will advertise using his account.
- **Fox Hunt on 20th November** (third Sat.) at 1345 hours following a General Meeting at 1330 hours
 - Wallace presented his plans for the event. It will be set on the map of St Heliers that was circulated in the previous newsletter.
 - At the start, three participants, one in each age group (<35, <65, 65+) will be called to pick up their sniffer. After an interval of 5 minutes, another three will start. Thus 30+ participants start over 1 hour.
 - Wallace showed the Clip card that will be used to prove at the finish that the foxes were found.
 - Steve is building three sniffers; Wallace two, and Peter two, giving a total of only 8 (not enough). Participants are urged to bring their own mobile 80M rig. Cars will be allowed to be used for this event.
 - Steve, Wallace and Japie are building more foxes from a QRP design, each on a different frequency from 3.510 MHz to 3.6.00 Mhz. Participants will take about 1 hour to complete the course.
 - Winners of each group will be announced afterwards and they will be expected to describe their route. From these accounts we can all learn how to improve our DF technique and to resolve to do better at the next event.
- **AGM on 14 December** (Second Tuesday) at 1930 hours – AGM. This will be announced in the next newsletter because 14 days notice is required.
- **Web Page:**
 - Wallace made suggestions for the on-line Membership renewal form to use open-ended questions.
 - Holding a General Meeting on 15th January 2011 was discussed.
- **Maintenance:**
 - Loose roof iron needs to be re-nailed and a bitumen type paint to be applied. The back wall needs white acrylic paint of which there is enough in the storeroom. The base is to be painted grey.
 - It was suggested that Student Job Find should be used.
 - An opossum disturbed the meeting. A fix is needed where he gets in through the trellis at the gable.
- **Tenure:**
 - Wallace tabled a draft letter to Auckland City. It was discussed and amended to soften its demands.
 - Selwyn circulated a rail plan by Tonkin and Taylor. Park and ride from our St Johns site is a threat.
 - If indeed Scarbro's are being evicted (in anticipation of this plan?), the Lease Office are unaware of it.
 - Our next draft should be approved by Gwynne before it is posted to Auckland City.
- **Antennas:**
 - The base of the beam has been earthed.
 - The 80 metre antenna central pole needs to be erected in time for the Fox hunt as a homing beacon.
 - Coax cable has been tidied up but each needs to be tested, measured, labeled, etc. A volunteer please.
 - Realignment of the beam – next job for Steve's truck.
- **Computers at each station:** Cat 5 Ethernet cables have been laid under the clubroom and the Woosh modem has been shifted to feed the splitter now located behind the door. The ends need to be terminated with RJ45 plugs..
- **Membership phone tree:** The latest membership list has arbitrary assignments of 6 members to each Committee member. This will be useful for emergency notification and for reminding members about various matters, e.g. the AGM.
- **AREC:**
 - Japie prefers self reliance at the Branch. He will publish guidelines for members to assist from home.
 - Nevertheless, an AREC communications test will occur on 3.900 USB at 1900 on Sat 13 November.
 - Japie and Steve will participate; other members are urged to listen in and learn procedure used.
- **Remotely Controlled Station:** George supplied a new computer to control the K3. It has been set up and will go on test with those members already loaded in the Configuration file.
- **Examinations:** Two candidates are to be examined at the end of November.

Meeting Closed 21:35. Supper followed with "industrial" cake supplied by Peter, ZL1LS

New Zealand Amateur Radio Day

Purpose

The purpose of the New Zealand Amateur Radio Day is to promote our hobby to the public so that some may be encouraged to join the local club, take on classes and become amateur radio operators.

Time

From 1000-1200 hours local time annually on the 3rd Saturday of January

Location

Any prominent and public location where there is plenty of public foot traffic. The location will most likely require council (or other landowner) approval. Make sure this is sought and obtained in plenty of time as councils often have minimum notification times.

Logs

You are required to keep a log of all stations worked during the 2 hours. Logs must include the callsign of the station worked, time, frequency, and any other information you may like to include.

Callsign

Use of club callsigns is encouraged, however individuals may also set up a station using his or her own callsign.

Prior Publicity

For this exercise to be a success, prior publicity is essential. Make every effort to publicise the event through local club magazines, local newspapers and other media outlets as much as possible.

Publicity on the day

As the aim of this exercise is to promote our hobby to the public, have material to hand out on the day. A liaison person or persons should be nominated for this task. People with good communication skills are recommended to take on this role. This person should have a thorough understanding of the systems and modes being used on the day as they will be inundated with questions. Cards, pamphlets and other such giveaways, with club representative contact details are a must. Get copies of the latest amateur radio promotional brochure from Debby at NZART HQ. If you have a class coming up make sure the details are included on any handout material. Take down details of people who express an interest in the hobby and follow them up.

Contacts

Contacts are to be made with other NZARD stations, or home stations willing to work NZARD stations. Interested public should be encouraged to have a go on the air under direct supervision.

Bands and Modes

Operation on the day can be on any band and any mode. The national system, IRLP nodes, 80 and 40m would be recommended as a starting point for New Zealand based contacts. Digital modes and CW may also be used to attract interest.

Other Rules

While this is a field type operation, mains may be used if available.

Make sure your equipment is working and presentable to the public before the event.

Afterwards

Please write an activity report and submit it with your log to warren@zl2aj.com. There is no scoring of contacts made during the day. Activity reports will be submitted to Break In. It is imperative to follow up any names collected on the day. Invite them to a club night, or get them involved in activities. Encourage them to study and get a callsign. All this will help boost club membership.

HOT WEBSITES (copy these URL's into Google's search engine)

<http://www.radiodx.com>

<http://www.3news.co.nz/Morse-code-beeps-back-into-business/tabid/412/articleID/146199/Default.aspx>

<http://www.radioamateurs.org.nz/ZL3%20Buildathon%20Christchurch.pdf>

The WB4MAK SDR receiver can be a handy tool to check out radio propagation to the South-Eastern United States by anyone with a high speed Internet connection. You will find it on line at:

<http://wb4mak.com/>

Feilding Radio Club ZL2AMR - Out of Recess after 14 years

PREPARATION FOR A DISASTER - How we can help from our QTH.

by Japie Nel (AREC section leader)

Dear member and reader,

In the wake of the recent disaster in Christchurch, we are prompted to evaluate our own state of readiness and to make plans in case any disaster strikes here in Auckland. This applies to both ourselves and our families and to our role as a radio-operators to help our community.

Most of us have family members that depend on us for their basic needs. We should all be prepared with water supplies for three days, (needing approximately 3 litres of water per person per day), tinned and vacuum-packed food with alternative cooking facilities, and protection against the elements. For example, we should have a brightly colored camping tent, an extra tarpaulin and some warm clothes. Fresh batteries for a transistor radio and flashlights are essential, as is a first-aid kit. Most of these things are listed in the back pages of the Yellow Pages. Above all, each family should have a plan, have discussed it amongst themselves, and know how and where to meet. The critical survival period is the 48 to 60 hours that it takes the Red-Cross to arrive to help.

Whatever I have to say now is not intended to replace or supersede the function or purpose of AREC, but rather it is to help and support them, though you may not be on their call-up list. For example, once we have taken care of our families, and are mobile and active, then we are in a position to respond to an emergency by offering our assistance to others and thus provide a greater resource to AREC than is noted in their official records.

In preparation, the main requirement should be to have practical and essential equipment, tried and tested gear and fool-proof methods. Don't assume that your antennas will survive. And make sure that a fallen 220v supply does not present a risk. Have easy to erect, dependable antennas at hand, Be prepared to install them in difficult situations with least assistance.

Battery power is where we are most vulnerable. So have some good car batteries on charge. Gel-cells, though more expensive, are lighter and enable a portable operation. Generators will probably not survive a flood, so do not depend on them. Nevertheless, have an uncontaminated supply of fuel available. Better still, have solar panels because these have become affordable, and they will pay for themselves, especially as they will maintain the charge in your batteries. Finally, don't put all your eggs in one basket. If something happens to your shack, have some equipment available at some alternative location.

Now that you are ready, convey a message to your "local cell" on 3.900.00 MHZ USB, stating how you can contribute in a practical way. Whereas VHF is easier to use, it is dependent on repeaters, so HF equipment is more reliable. At Auckland branch, 10 metres FM is fully functioning to cover greater Auckland.

The best advise I can offer now is to buy some modern plastic, watertight, durable containers with snap shut lids that work well. Those with a transparent lid are particularly useful because:

1. Your solar panels can be mounted inside, are protected, remain dry and continue to charge.
2. The radio channel and frequencies can be viewed through the lid without risking your rig.
3. When you mount and install your equipment, put the heavy items at the bottom, so it will stay upright and yet will continue to float. Try it out to be sure that it will not sink.
4. Mobile antennas, the "radial-less" type, work well if mounted in your plastic container.
5. Laminate your frequency charts and put these in your containers.
6. Also, laminate contact details of club-members, police and relatives you may need to contact.

In a disaster, we should all take part to a greater or lesser extent. Do not have unrealistic expectations. STAY CALM. Stick to our local club's simplex frequencies because repeaters on the national system should be reserved for more serious messages and they may be on standby power. Remember, conserve battery power. Use as low power as possible. Use high only as is needed.