



Auckland Branch 02, NZART

NEWSLETTER

October 2010



General Meeting

Saturday, 16th October 2010 at 1330 hours following a BBQ.

Agenda:

- General Business
- Steve Miller: Arctic Sunrise in the Gulf of Mexico

CONTEST NAME

DATE

RULES

Straight Key Night (First Sunday in November)

7 November

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/contests/2008/2008-nzart-straight-key-night-rules.html>

Boat Anchor Sprint

13 November

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

FOX HUNT starting at Auckland clubroom-

20 November

See next page for description of the event

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

4 & 5 December

<http://www.vhf.org.nz/VHF-UHF-SHF-ContestRules>

Kiwi Digital Modes Group Twin Sprint Contest

4 & 5 December

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

VHF/UHF/SHF Contest DX Weekend

6 & 7 February

<http://www.vhf.org.nz/VHF-UHF-SHF-ContestRules>

From the Chair

Welcome to the October Newsletter and also to the better weather we have had lately. A few days of cold temperatures and strong southerly winds we had earlier in the month and have put a strain on our two towers. It is just as well that the main tower for the beam had been replaced in recent times because I feel the old angle iron tower would have been broken by this wind. As it was, the much smaller VHF/UHF satellite tower was dislodged from its base. It lay at a drunken angle, saved from being completely blown over by the co-ax and control leads for the rotators !

Scarbro's will be vacating the section early next year and will clear it completely ! And the pony club are about to enhance their area with post and rails fencing. With better weather I am hoping members will make themselves available to progress maintenance work on the outside of our building: painting its walls and roof, to keep up with the Jones' so to speak. Meanwhile we need to re-erect the HF aerials and do some maintenance on the beam.

Auckland Branch had two tables of gear, junk, etc. at the sale organized by Western suburbs last weekend. Results seemed to indicate that it all had been worthwhile because quite an amount of 'stuff' changed hands, thus making for more space in our clubroom.

Let us welcome back Steve ZL1FS who has returned from working on board ship in the Caribbean and Mexican Gulf. Steve has kindly agreed to give us a talk on his experiences at the October general meeting Saturday 16th October.

The following month on 20 November, Wallace will organize a fox hunt starting at our Branch clubroom. Such an event was run last year by Branch 29 for JOTA / JOTI (Scout movement) and was such a success that it will be repeated this weekend at Camp Maynard in Albany. So try building a home-brew direction finding antenna and test your ARDF and Orienteering (to know where you are) skills. This should be a lot of fun, and from what I read, it is popular all over the world and it is reaching us in Oceania.

In a couple of months on the second Tuesday in December we shall be holding our AGM at 1930 hours. I mention it now because we would like to welcome some new members to the Committee. Please give some thought to helping the Branch Committee.

Looking forward to seeing or hearing you soon. Cheers and 73, Gwynne, ZL1AAR

Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) - Fox hunting



A map and compass sport that combines the skills of orienteering and radio direction finding. It is a timed race in which individual competitors use a topographic map, a magnetic compass and radio direction finding apparatus to navigate through diverse wooded terrain while searching for radio transmitters. Worldwide, the sport is most often referred to by its English-language acronym, ARDF, but is also referred to as fox hunting. ARDF events use radio frequencies on either the 2 metre or 80 metre amateur radio bands, chosen because of their universal availability to amateur radio licensees in all countries.

Enter the following URL in your internet browser and watch a 6 minute U-tube video of fox hunting in action. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPLWCc_rDqk

For this first event from Auckland Branch clubroom, we shall not send you into rough terrain, nor should you take all day (as is shown in the video). Rather we shall confine the foxes to an area of 3 square kilometers that is mostly suburban and should take about 1 hour to find them on foot. Future events may be more demanding.

Meanwhile, see <http://www.homingin.com/> for design ideas to make yourself a directional antenna and adapt it to your preferred 80 metre portable receiver.

Over the last decade this sport has become the rage in Europe, USA and now Oceania. It is inclusive of all the family, young and old, and it is attracting new amateurs keen to build their own rigs and to better their skills.



AUCKLAND BRANCH
New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters Inc

St Heliers

Orientation map, Auckland, New Zealand

Scale: 1:15000

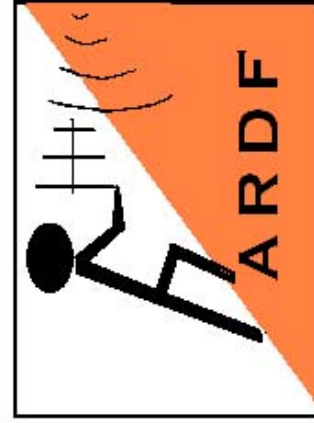
Contour: 20m

North arrow pointing up, labeled 'N Magnetic'

100 200 300 400 500
Metres

LEGEND

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



START

AUCKLAND BRANCH, NZART (inc.)

Advanced issue of Minutes of Committee Meeting

Time / Date / Place: Tuesday, 5th October 2010; 1735 hours; Clubroom.

Attendees: Gwynne Rowe, ZL1AAR, (Chairman); Steve Miller, ZL1FS (Immediate Past Pres.) Wallace Bottomley, ZL1WAL (Secretary / Treasurer); Selwyn Ross, ZL1BRC; George Marr, ZL1TUJ; Ray Chapman, ZL1AJR; James Knightly, ZL1KNI.

Apologies: Peter Ellis, ZL1LS, (VP); Japie Nel, ZL1JJN, (AREC)

Sustained ZL1AAR / ZL1FS

Minutes of the previous Committee meeting on 7th September 2010:

Taken as read and accepted ZL1AAR / ZL1TUJ

Matters arising:

- It was pointed out that these minutes contain more information than was published in the newsletter. The Chairman welcomed its (premature) publication as a means to keep the membership more timely informed. Whereas the minutes may go through a revision, they are not the official minutes until passed by this Committee, a month later.

Correspondence In:

- Newsletters from neighbouring branches: VHF; Franklin.
- Email from Steve, ZL1FS (at sea) thanking us for keeping him informed about Branch activities.
- Email from James, ZL1KNI offering a Graphic card that has TV output (to be used instead of a projector.)
- Letter from Tom McDonald, ZL1TO of Clan Donald thanking us for use of the clubroom on 1st Sunday afternoons of the month, and the generous gesture by George, ZL1UJ; nevertheless they intend to donate.
- Emails from Selwyn on the subjects of:
 - Minute taking;
 - Finding records within the Branch about W A W (Arthur) Stevens ZL1MT, who would have been a member from 1946 until he died in 1989. His first call sign was ZL2HR in Hawera from 1930.
 - Newsletter contribution with newspaper clipping about the history of station 1AA.
- Copy of an Email by Tom McDonald, ZL1TO to Clan Donald's chief, seeking the return of the keys.
- NZART acknowledging application for Wallace to be an Examination Supervisor.
- Incorporated Societies advising Registry Key.

Received ZL1TUJ / ZL1AJR

Correspondence Out:

- Request to Incorporated Societies for Registry Key to enable details to be updated on-line.
- Letter to Dianne Webster and Jocelyn Ashby providing the Branch's obituary to Donald ZL1CY – SK.
- Application to NZART (signed by Gwynne) for Wallace to be an Examination Supervisor.
- Email to Andrei, ZL1TM asking for changes to the web page (see below).
- Email to Japie, ZL1JJN suggesting that he provide a newsletter article about Preparedness for a Disaster.

Approved ZL1TUJ / ZL1AJR

Matters arising:

- Secretary to allow Clan Donald to retain a key to the clubroom – subject to their finding Donald's key.
- The suggestion to use a tape recorder at meetings was debated and abandoned.
- Selwyn is researching the Branch's history: previous Officers, its achievements and events. He has found the photograph album, minutes and newsletters. Contributions are being sought from all OM.
- Images of Certificates on the clubroom walls are stored both off-site and on the two HP computers. Branch records have not yet been scanned and /or stored in Archives.

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

Received ZL1WAL / ZL1AAR

Expenses requiring approval for payment

- R Higgins – Lawns September \$15.00
- Wallace – Letrag maker and labels \$60.80 (see Maintenance below).
- Wallace – Frames for certificates \$39.90
- Wallace – Ethernet cable, etc. \$79.80 (see Computers below).
- Wallace – Crimping tool \$9.00 (see Computers below).
- Wallace – Road sign upgrade \$48.00 (see Maintenance below).

Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1AAR

Arising:

- The Branch already has two Dymo label makers. Only one was found, but it failed to work.
- A classic mic ex Bill Schlef, ZL1BJN, though offered back to him, was purchased by Ray, ZL1AJR.
- Wallace purchased Bill's vibroplex bug and Donald's home-brew brass pounder CW key.

Minutes of Committee Meeting (Continued)

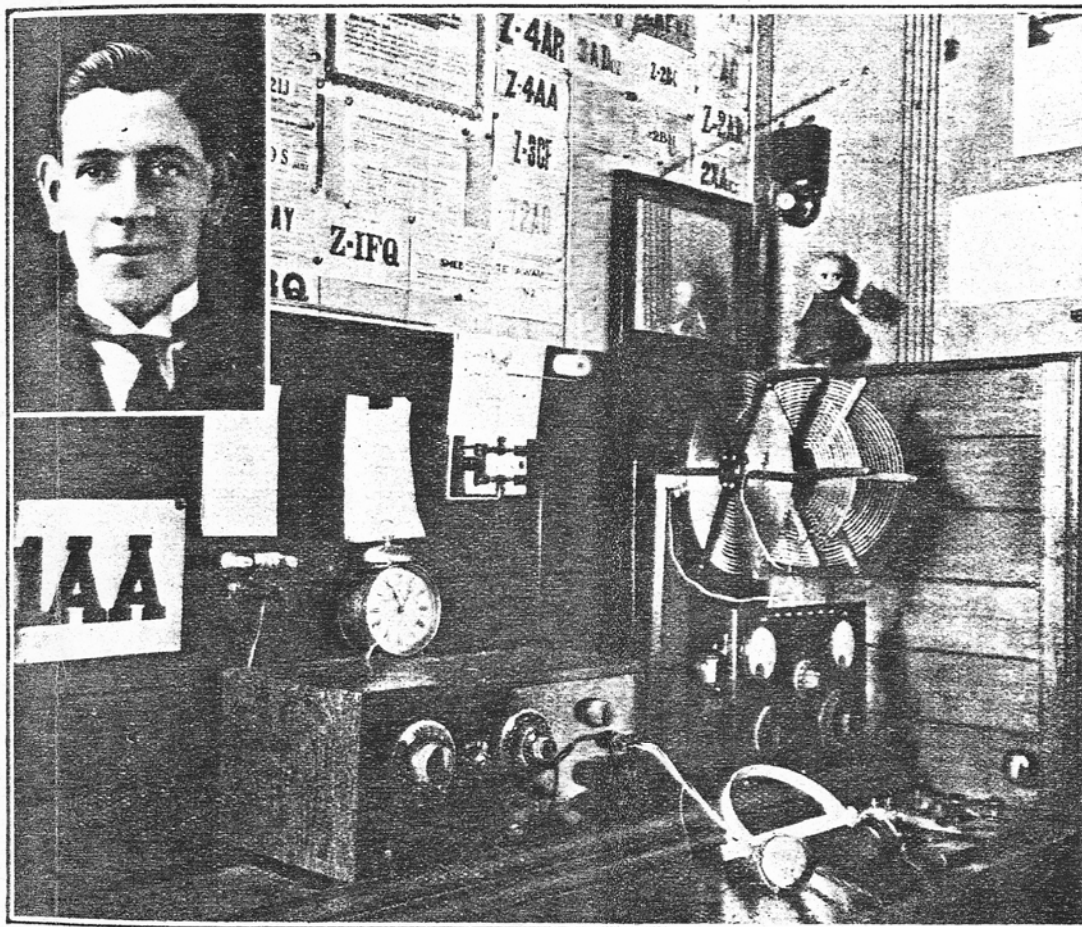
General business:

- **Junk Sale organized by Western Branch at Avondale on 9th October:**
 - Selwyn has booked a table. Many items have been bagged and labeled.
 - Selwyn will provide \$200 float for the Sale at Western Branch and reimburse himself from its takings.
 - A Sales sheet will be provided to record Item description, Estate and Amount.
 - Plans were made to meet on Friday at 1500 hours to load Steve's station wagon.
 - Sellers need to be at Avondale by 0800 hours. The sale closes at noon.
 - Members to watch out for good RG213 Coax for Stan, the builder to whom we owe 12 metres.
 - The next sale will be at Musick Point on 13th November.
- **Program for General Meeting:**
 - 16 October (3rd Sat.) Steve will talk about his recent tour aboard Arctic Sunrise in the Gulf of Mexico.
 - 20 November – A fox hunt on 80m organized by Wallace. (He has convened Orienteering events). Bring your own, or hire an ARDF sniffer. Maps will be issued; staggered start; individual timings.
 - 14 December (Second Tuesday) at 1930 hours – AGM.
 - Next year – Astronomy lecture.
- **Examinations**
 - Selwyn reported rumblings on ZLHams about a rival examination procedure being promoted by Fred Johnstone, an ARX. This Branch supports the satisfactory status quo: Debby as ARX for NZART.
- **Web Page:**
 - Subscription info is on the Home page together with the Branch's ASB Bank account number.
 - Thus it is hoped that immediately after the AGM, members will directly credit their 2011 sub.
 - A Membership renewal form can be filled in on-line and downloaded from www.qsl.net/zl1aa
- **Shelving:**
 - Wallace's claim at the Disputes Tribunal was successful with the award of compensation to him.
 - A subsequent negotiation for similar shelves fell through, so he is on the lookout again.
 - A plan of the clubroom, showing the position of the shelves, was circulated and approved in principle.
- **Tenure at 400 Kohimarama Road:**
 - Steve informed the meeting that Scarbros will vacate the section by February 2011 and have to clear it.
 - Laying the phone line was considered: e.g. before the next tenant (a road making contractor) moves in.
 - Wallace to prepare a letter (for Committee's approval) to ask ACC to include better wording in the lease.
- **Computers at each station:**
 - Wallace will lay Cat 5 ethernet cables under the clubroom and James will terminate the RJ45 plugs.
- **Remotely Controlled Station:**
 - George provided a new computer to control the K3. This is to be set up after the meeting.
- **Membership phone tree:**
 - Agreed to assign six Branch members to each of the Committee.
 - Selwyn will provide Wallace with detail of Incorporated Societies Act about the Register of Members.
- **Maintenance:**
 - The road sign has been refurbished and has up-to-date wording announcing open / meeting times.
 - The QSL rack has been cleaned up and labeled.
 - Roof nails have been purchased for a younger member to affix the loose iron before painting the roof.
- **Antennas (in order of Priority):**
 - Now that Steve has returned (from sea), the 80 metre antenna central pole will be erected soon.
 - Realignment of the beam – next job for his truck.
 - The base of the beam needs to be earthed.
 - Coax cable has been tidied up but each needs to be tested, measured, labeled, etc.
- **Visitor:** Selwyn has had contact from a Canadian who wishes to store some gear at the club temporarily.

Meeting Closed 21:30.

Amateur Section

"Hams"—These pages are for YOU, to exchange notes and reports. Blocks of suitable photos published will be retained for free reproduction on QSL cards printed at this office. Send yours now.



Station 1AA, and the owner, who recently worked the Wilkins Expedition in Alaska

IAA REACHES OUT

Yarns with Wilkins Expedition in Alaska

RADIO 1AA is putting himself well on the map with his little Z2B. Working on about 33 metres with an input varying from 45 to 60 watts he got into touch with the Wilkins Expedition in Alaska recently, and chatted for an hour without any difficulty at either end.

At the other end Lieutenant Messer was using a portable plant with an input of about 300 watts to two 50-watt valves. At the time the Alaskan call was picked up, Lieutenant Messer was trying to get Australia, the homeland of Captain Wilkins, in order to send a message to the Prime Minister.

ting into touch with New Zealand, and it was arranged for another attempt to be made on the following Wednesday. This was also successful. On Thursday night, however, a further attempt failed.

Radio 1AA thinks that this is the first time that communication has been established between New Zealand and the interior of Alaska. His last event of importance was getting into touch with the Ross Sea whaling expedition a few months ago.

Radio 1AA uses the usual detector and one-step for receiving. The transmitter shown in the photo has been remodelled for use on the shorter waves; but the rest of the gear is the same, including 1AA, the most important part. By the way, Mr. Edwards' address is now 50

A Bit of ZL1AA Prehistory

While searching the Branch photo album for something else, ZL1BRC came across this gem of a news item from the past. It is a pity that it is only a fragment but that is better than nothing. Its probable date is 1928.

Norm Edwards was one of the group of Auckland amateurs who created the forerunner of NZART. He was the holder of several firsts in DX records.

Note the 1AA callsign which later became the fuller callsign ZL1AA. After Norm's death in the 1950s Auckland Branch (later incorporated in 1976) acquired his callsign which is regarded as a treasure on the international DX bands.

Where this article was published is unknown. It may have been in the Detroit News which sponsored several Wilkins expeditions to the Arctic, or more likely in a New Zealand publication dedicated to New Zealand radio broadcasting and containing an Amateur Section — amateurs appearing to have a higher profile in those days than they have today.

Wilkins was an Australian named Hubert Wilkins who was later knighted. His polar exploits should make interesting reading. One of the aircraft which he used was a metal Fokker tri-motor named "Detroit" which crashed in the Arctic and was later returned to the United States. There it was sold to Charles Kingsford Smith who renamed it "Southern Cross".

FROM INFO-LINE, NZART

SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS by direct credit

If paying your membership subscription for 2011 by direct credit to our bank account, please remember to include either your call sign or membership number, so I know who the payment is from.

To pay direct to our bank account, the details are as follows:

BNZ 02 0772 0209760 00. New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters Inc.

HAMADS

If you are wanting to place an advertisement in the HAMADS, you need to forward this directly to the Break In Editor, John Walker ZL3IB. The address details can be found inside the front cover of your magazine

Web Update

The build of the NZART Web into a Content Management System (CMS) is nearing completion — testing and final checking.

An Interesting Web Site

<http://www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock.swf>