



Auckland Branch

N Z Association of Radio Transmitters Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2013



MERRY CHRISTMAS



DIRECTORY:

www.qsl.net/ZL1AA

ZL1AA@NZART.org.nz

Clubroom: 528-2039

Contacts: 524-9969 (Gwynne)

21- 0226-4981 (Steve)

Box 18-003, Glen Innes, Auckland, 1743.

400 St Johns Road, Kohimarama,

Google earth: 36.86973°S; 174.84386°E

ARRL Grid: RF73kr

ASB Bank Account: 12-3047-0076823-00

Nets Mondays 3.645 MHz

8 pm: Thursdays 145.775 MHz

Club: Saturdays 145.775 MHz

Skype: ZL1AA_NZ

Remote K3: [RCForb / ZL1AA](http://RCForb/ZL1AA)

From your President George ZL1TUJ



Annual General Meeting: The newly elected Committee is the same as last year. Japie and Steve have reversed roles as AREC Section Leader and Deputy. Wes Printz ZL3TE takes over the role as Newsletter Editor. His task is made easier if each Member conscientiously submits at least one pet topic — even if it is a question that you want to have answered. It is acceptable to reproduce something that you have found interesting (from a magazine or on the internet), provided that acknowledgement is given to its author.

Follow Wallace's lead who writes the Fox Hunting Page each month. I suggest that we need an Antenna Page and a champion to drive some experimentation using the real estate that surrounds our clubroom.

Contests:

Members are urged to support Selwyn Ross ZL1BRC who intends to put ZL1AA on the air for the ARRL 10m contest this week-end. It starts at 1 pm on Saturday and runs for 48 hours (until 1 pm on Monday). Conditions for the 10m band will fade after 10 pm each evening and pick up again after dawn the following day. QSL Selwyn rosssj@xtra.co.nz or ring the Clubroom 528-2039 asking him to schedule you to operate, preferably after 5 pm on Saturday and Sunday evenings when he cannot operate.

Auckland Council Unitary Plan:

NZART will make one submission to Auckland Council about the Unitary Plan. The plan is to ask every Member to support it with a simple statement: Eliminate “discretionary activity” and substitute it with “**allowed activity**”. The particulars of the NZART submission will be communicated to Members in early February 2014. This leaves merely a fortnight to meet the deadline for Members to make their supporting submission. Let us all act in unison for the good of all present and future Amateurs.

Remotely Controlled Station:

Have you downloaded **RCForb** from www.RemoteHams.com yet? ZL1AA is listed there. Listen on Monday evenings at 8 pm to the Club net on 3.645 MHz. In the previous week it was reported as 50 db over strength 9 when receiving our Net Master Ray (who lives so close). Those that ask to be registered will be given the privilege to tune the radio. Contact James ZL1KNI at j.knightly@knightly.co.nz

Seasons Greetings: On behalf of the Committee, I wish all Members of Auckland Branch, our good wishes over Christmas and continued enjoyment with this hobby in 2014.

The 70 cm Band Plan	(See Infoline 286 for Notes, Decisions and Comments of the Review Working Group)
430.000 to 431.900	Repeater links
431.900 to 432.000	Guard Band EME
432.000 to 432.100	EME
432.100 to 432.600	Narrow Band modes (BW 6kHz or less)
432.100	National Calling Frequency Primary (Narrow band)
432.200	National Calling Frequency Secondary (Narrow band)
432.250 to 432.300	Beacons (horizontal polarisation)
432.300 to 432.400	Spare
432.400 to 432.600	Guard Band Australian Beacons
432.575	APRS (current) (note 2)
432.600 to 432.800	FM Digital modes (5kHz or less deviation)
432.650	Packet digipeaters
432.675	Secondary packet digipeaters
432.700	VOIP Simplex
432.725	VOIP Simplex Secondary
432.750	P25/Dstar/DMR Simplex
432.775	APRS (note 2)
432.800 to 432.975	FM Simplex (5 kHz or less deviation)
433.000 to 434.795	Repeater Inputs/Outputs (note 1)
434.800 to 435.000	National System Repeaters (note 1)
435.000 to 438.000	Amateur Satellite Operations
438.000 to 439.800	Repeater Inputs/Outputs (note 1)
439.800 to 440.000	National System Repeaters (note 1)

Auckland Branch, NZART (Inc.)

Minutes of General Club Meeting

On: Saturday, 16th November 2013 at 1335 hours
At: Clubrooms

Present: George ZL1TUJ, (presiding), Steve ZL1FS, Wallace ZL1WAL, Ray ZL1AJR, Selwyn ZL1BRC, Martin ZL1AJN, Japie ZL1JJN, Logan ZL1LMN, Gwynne ZL1AAR and Simon ZL1SWW, as was recorded in the Attendance Book.

Apologies: Wes ZL3TE

Sustained ZL1WAL / ZL1AJR

Minutes of the previous General Meeting on 12th October 2013 at Clubroom.

Having been circulated in the November newsletter, was taken as read and approved:
ZL1AJR / ZL1WAL

Finance: The Finance report, as approved at the last Committee Meeting on 5th November was circulated. Pledges and payments have been received from Members (\$805) in addition to the pledge made by the Branch (\$800).

Received ZL1WAL / ZL1AJR

Reports:

- Douglas Birt ZL1BFS continues to meet with other Branches to discuss a unified submission to the Auckland City Unitary Plan. We were the first Branch last month.
- ARDF activity at JOTA at Camp Maynard on 19-20 October was described by Wallace ZL1WAL who set up three 80m foxes and five 2m foxes. There was little participation. On Sunday Steve ZL1FS helped some youngsters around the course and he brought the 80m gear back.
- Erection of the Nally fold-over crank-up tower (ex Estate of John Nixon ZL1FR) is being planned.
- ZL1AA is just one of 50 stations world-wide on the RCForb site. Individual registration with the host is required by Amateurs wishing to tune the radio. The banner page invites listeners to join our Branch. Already some applications have been received from overseas Hams. On Monday night, the station is tuned to 3.645 MHz, so that our Members, who have poor reception at their QTH, can be passive listeners. They transmit from their own rigs.
- JWFD: The idea of fielding a B team for the sake of newer Members, and the practical difficulties of avoiding interference with the A team, was discussed.

This part of the meeting concluded at 1350 hours.

Presentations:

- Selwyn Ross ZL1BRC lectured about the necessity to keep ZL1AA on the air. He explained recent solar activity showing printed examples of web pages that report trends and predictions about conditions in the F layers of the ionosphere. He stressed the variability that might prevail to give openings for DX transmission.
- Simon Watt-Wyness ZLSWW followed with a professionally prepared power-point presentation that confined itself to VHF and UHF transmission conditions, especially in sporadic E layers. He stressed that a lot of listening was required to fluke these opportunities that lasted such a short time.

The Meeting concluded at 1512 hours.

Auckland Branch, NZART (Inc.)

Minutes of Annual General Club Meeting

On: Saturday, 10th December 2013 at 1935 hours
At: Clubrooms

Present: George ZL1TUJ, (presiding), Steve ZL1FS, Wallace ZL1WAL, Ray ZL1AJR, Japie ZL1JJN, Robert ZL2RED, Gwynne ZL1AAR, Wes ZL3TE, Selwyn ZL1BRC, Spenser Maxwell ZL1BBQ, Paul ZL3WPK as was recorded in the Attendance Book.

Apologies: Logan Nicoll ZL1LMN, S Keesing ZL1FN, Giovanni Viana ZL1BRA, Barry Gordon ZL1AAA, Rose Veale ZL1DV, James Knightly ZL1KNI, Ian Twentyman ZL1UMC, Andrew Scott-Mackie ZL1ASM, Jon Farmer ZL1BJZ, Stuart Smith ZL1SSM, Paul Barratt ZL1AJY, Jason Harvey ZL2UJI, Jeff Lowe ZL1TOU, Martin Ellis ZL1ANJ, Brian Wilson ZL1UBX, Tom Glendenning ZL1AMZ, Colin Robinson ZL1TKJ

Sustained ZL1WAL / ZL1AJR

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting on 11^h December 2012 at Clubroom.

Having been circulated was taken as read ZL1WAL/ ZL1TUJ

- Arising: Recommendations made at the last AGM about keeping ZL1AA on the air, did not record remarks made by Selwyn ZL1BRC. "Whereas he had made 190 entries in the log, others had made 10."

Ratified ZL1BRC / ZL2RED

Reports:

- **Presidents Report:** George read out his report (See elsewhere in this newsletter).

Received ZL1TUJ / ZL3TE

- **Treasurers Report:** Wallace gave a presentation of how the end of year Financial Accounts varied from the Budget. (See elsewhere in this newsletter).

Received ZL1WAL / ZL1AJR

- **Auditor:** That Mrs Christine Watson be thanked for auditing the financial accounts so promptly.

Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1AJR

- **Members' deposits** (\$805) for the "Fighting Fund" to change the Auckland Council Unitary Plan, should be kept in a separate bank account.

Moved ZL1AFU / ZL3TE

- **AREC Report:**

Having been circulated, taken as read and accepted ZL1JJN / ZL1WAL

Nominations:

George ZL1TUJ vacated the Chair

- **President:** George Marr ZL1TUJ

Elected unopposed

George resumed the Chair

- **Vice President:** Steve Miller ZL1FS

Elected unopposed

- **Secretary:** Wallace Bottomley ZL1WAL

- **Treasurer:** Wallace Bottomley ZL1WAL

Elected unopposed

- **Committee:** Ray Chapman ZL1AJR
Wes Printz ZL3TE
Japie Nel ZL1JJN
Gwynne Rowe ZL1AAR
Robert Dean ZL2RED

Elected unopposed

- **Non-Committee responsibilities:**

- **Trustees** Steve Miller ZL1FS
George Marr ZL1TUJ
- **AREC Section Leader** Steve Miller ZL1FS
- **Deputy AREC S/L** Japie Nel ZL1JJN
- **Web Master** Andrei Chatalov ZL1TM
- **Net Master** Ray Chapman ZL1AJR
- **Technical Advisors** Simon Watt-Wyness ZL1SWW
James Knightly ZL1KNI
- **Librarian** Gwynne Rowe ZL1AAR
- **Computers** Logan Nicoll ZL1LMN
- **Auditor** Mrs Christine Watson

Minutes of the AGM 2013 (Continued)

- **Subscriptions:**

That the subscription remain at \$45.00 p.a. discounted by being given a raffle ticket (worth \$5.00) if paid by 31st March 2014.
Student subscription remains at \$20.00 p.a.

Approved ZL1WAL / ZL3TE

- **Donations:**

That donations remain at \$150 to Musick Point Radio Society; \$100 to Auckland VHF Group and \$15 to AMSAT-ZL.

Approved ZL1TUJ / ZL1AAR

- **General Business:**

- **Painting:** Wallace was thanked for painting the east wall. Gwynne had water blasted it and Steve had assembled the scaffolding.
- **The Tower:** Pending getting an Engineer's recommendation, Steve ZL1FS outlined a plan to drill the existing concrete slab and affix long threaded studs with epoxy glue before bolting down the base plate of the pedestal. Meanwhile the tower should be guyed until a further layer of concrete is poured over the existing slab. Jason Harvey ZL2UJI will be asked to weld the mesh / reinforcing rods. The deadline is February 2014.
- **Loop antenna:** A recommendation was made to buy UV resistance guy ropes for the bamboo poles to support the Loop antenna. The maximum practical height is 8.5 metres. Such supports are needed before JWFD.
- **JWFD:** There is an alternative antenna cut, tested and ready to be used on JWFD.
- **Fox hunting equipment:** Ray ZL1AJR was thanked for his donation of a further 4 headphones to be used instead of ear pieces for the sniffer receivers.

The meeting ended at 21:22 hours with supper provided by the Committee.

President's Report for 2013

This year presented some challenges for the club.. We have had several functions that proved to be unsuccessful. The turnout was very low with some of them. The fox hunts were a mixed bag with the equipment not very reliable. We will import some 80 meter kit sets in the new year to help build up the numbers. The remote station has finally been set up in listening mode. I intend to provide the people on the remote list with a copy each of the K3 Operation Manual.

We have now made provision to set up a base so that the new tower will have a place to be mounted. This must be done before the end of January. We have an antenna donated to put on it.

We will need to submit a small request for funds to lotto before New Year.

Most of the maintenance has been completed with some still in progress. Hopefully the weather will cooperate.

This coming year we need to be more honest about putting money in the supper tin.

We need to get written approval to allow the remote station to be operated by overseas Hams. This must cover the Trustees so that they are not put in a position of uncertainty. The remote station has the potential to provide a listening post for overseas hams and a good source of funds for the club. Transmitting will require more thorough vetting as to call signs being officially vetted by the countries official issuing authority. This is work in progress and will require some patience.



The Fox hunting page

by Wallace ZL1WAL



Last month, with the help of Ray Chapman ZL1AJR, I hid three foxes around Western Springs Park.

Then as the Orienteers were arriving at the venue, and to our horror, we noticed that all of the sniffers — Direction Finding Radios — still had their earphone plugs in. This means that they were already turned on. A quick check confirmed that all of their batteries were dead flat. Though we had some replacement batteries, there was only enough for two sniffers.



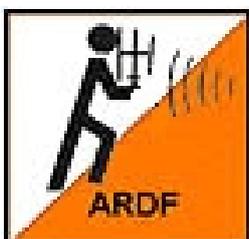
Next we discovered that the plugs for the ear pieces had corroded, so much so, that it was difficult to maintain a reliable connection. We tried many permutations of ear pieces from the other sniffers. Reluctantly we made the decision to abandon the event.



Worse was to come. It had begun to drizzle, rain, and finally there was a deluge. The ducks, geese and swans were delighted, I'm sure. Yours truly, had to go around the lake again to retrieve the hidden foxes, arriving back at the car an hour later just as the rain began to ease.

We are encouraged by the organizers of the Orienteers' Summer Series (in various parks mid-week after work). They asked us to provide them with publicity material to circulate with their massive e-mail out of results to over 200 people, announcing the venue for the next event.

Next Thursday evening 19th December there will be an event at Cornwall Park, starting at the Archery Club car park (on the east side of One Tree Hill). Join us.



AUCKLAND BRANCH, NZART Inc.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2013

by Wallace Bottomley, ZL1WAL, Treasurer.

Printed 10-Dec-2013

These accounts have been audited. I move a vote of thanks to Mrs Christine Watson, our Honorary Auditor.

At last year's AGM we circulated the Budget that the Incoming Committee accepted. It showed a deficit: **-\$1,600**

The following are the variances from the Budget that occurred during this year:

1	Increased Members' subscriptions	\$455
2	Increased Members' donations	\$360
3	Additional component sales	\$224
4	Commission earned	\$175
5	Building maintenance deferred	\$829
6	Interest on our Term Investment that was reinvested, rather than paid into our cheque account	-\$237
7	Other unremarkable variances	-\$192

Thus it would appear that we were on track to end up with a tiny surplus. **\$14**

However, two exceptional events occurred during the year, to which the Committee responded. They were:

- 1 A pledge was made towards the Fighting Fund against Auckland Council's Unitary Plan:
This amount has not been paid out yet, but it is included in these accounts and appears as a liability in the Balance Sheet. **-\$800**
It was pleasing to find that some Members contributed privately to match this amount.
- 2 Our Member, the late John Nixon ZL1FR-SK, finally passed away. His last contact was with Gwynne who visited his Dairy Flat property, the site of his Nally fold-over crank-up tower. We purchased his Kenwood TS480HX 200 watt transceiver from his trust: **-\$1,300**

This purchase enabled us to successfully tender for this tower that his Solicitors recognised would go to the good of the greatest number - consistent with John's wishes. **-\$200**
The cost to remove it and to transport it back to Auckland amounted to: **-\$388**

Taking this all into account, we exceeded the original budget by \$1,000 and ended up with a deficit of: **-\$2,674**

The budget for 2014 has been scrutinised and will be recommended to the incoming Committee. It aims to be in deficit by \$1,000. We purposely never include windfall expectations from the proceeds of possible deceased estates that have kept us solvent in previous years. Nor have we applied for grants.

Membership has remained static at 42. NZART has "attached" 69 Amateur's names, 12 more than last year. There is some overlap of these numbers; 27 of our Members are attached to our Branch and 25 are not, which means that the latter do not count when we vote on remits or other NZART AGM business. Each year I write to every one of these attached people to seek their votes about remits and either invite them to join this Branch, or prompt them to ask to be attached to a more convenient Branch. Only 2 or 3 respond which nets us \$100. **\$100**

Collecting Members' subscription is an arduous task. Seven Members have not renewed this year worth **-\$300**
Gwynne's initiative to provide and raffle the latest ARRL Handbook proved to be an incentive to collect Members' subscription early in the financial year. We should do it again, that is, charge the same subscription, i.e. **\$45**
and offer a raffle ticket worth \$5,00 as an incentive to pay by 31 March 2014.

A tax return was filed with Inland Revenue to recover Withholding tax deducted for interest earned.
Our Exempt status is recorded against the present Term Investment with Kiwi Bank which matures in February.
The Annual return to The Companies Office is made immediately after this meeting.

T'was the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their HTs to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
by a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver
who looked slightly mean.
So I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Re-soldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before --
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV,
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box,
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!"
(If he thought I'd been bad
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent,
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pile-up was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."

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