

Papakura Radio Club



**December
2009**

Newsletter

Calendar of coming events.

2nd December	General meeting followed by speaker
9th December	Project Evening. 2.4 GHZ
16th December	Committee Meeting
23rd December	Daytime Meeting / Technical Evening
30th December	There will be no AREC meeting this month

At this moment we are unsure on who the speaker will be following the general meeting.

++++++ Listen on nets for updated information.++++++

Papakura Radio Club (Inc.)

Minutes of General Meeting 4th November 2009 at 19.30
Clubrooms, Wellington Park .

Welcome to visitors: No visitors. 21 Members present.

Apologies: ZL1MR, ZL2SEA, ZL1ALE, ZL1AJL, ZL1WJQ, ZL1ABR.
ZL1BQE/ZL1BNQ

Minutes of the October General meeting as printed in the November newsletter were taken as read.

ZL1ASN/ZL1FAV

Matters arising: #4 Ole LA2RR not able to attend tonight's meeting.
#5 Jota reported on briefly by ZL1DK.

Inward Correspondence:

Newsletters from Branches 03, 10, 12, 29

Mercury Energy \$62.04

Westpac-00 \$3,923.26

Oceania DX Contest 2008 First Place Certificate for ZL1VK

PDC October Telecom account \$47.51

Sept/October Break-In

Outward Correspondence: Nil

Finances:

David ZL1MR not present so no report.

General Business:

1/ December Christmas social with Franklin: David ZL1DK reported that we had swapped with Franklin the organising due to 50th Anniversary next year, and Franklin has booked the Franklin Club, Pukekohe for November 27th at 7pm. Cost \$18.00

2/ Rally NZ 5K operators required for next May 7th, 8th and 9th May 2010. Contact Richard ZL1BNQ if you wish to help.

3/ EMCOM Exercise Saturday 14th November from 1900 NZDT to 2100. Require at least three operators. Please advise David ZL1DK if available.

4/ South Auckland Car Club requires operators for Sunday 15th November 2009. Contact ZL1DK.

5/ NZART Calendar: Proposed calendar from July 2010 to June 2011. Amateur Radio theme requires suitable photos of greater than 1Mb size.

6/ Promotional Material: Request details of any promotional material that can be used by other Branches, both local and overseas.

7/ Club Rooms request for use by the Police all day on Thursday 12th November. All agreed ok and that there would be no charge for a one off hire.

Meeting closed at 20:00, and was followed by the AGM.

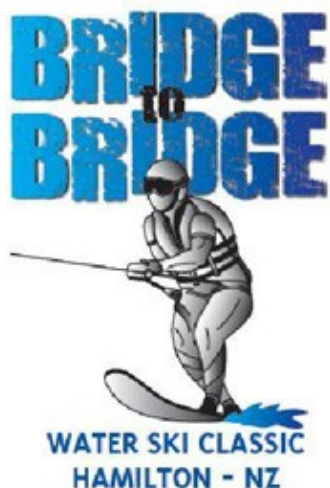
Raffle won by Keith ZL1BIQ.

From the 2009 AGM Minutes

Committee remains basically the same with Fred moving to Vice President and John moving to committee

President	ZL1DK	David Karrash	
Vice President	ZL1FAV	Fred Vermeulen	
Treasurer	ZL1MR	David Wilkins	
Secretary	ZL1AOX	Ian Ashley	
Committee	ZL1BNQ	Richard Gamble	
	ZL1ALZ	John Balsillie	
	ZL4AX	Paul Godolphin	
	ZL1ASN	Roly Adams	
Hall Custodian	ZL1AKY	Geoff Reed	
Newsletter Editor	ZL1RP	Cliff Reynolds	
Exam Administrator	ZL1AMN	Dave Johnston	
Theory Tester	ZL1BNQ	Richard Gamble	
CW Tester	ZL1AKY	Geoff Reed	
Callsign Trustee	ZL1AKY	Geoff Reed	
Net Controllers	ZL1AMN	Dave Johnston	HF
	ZL1QK	Bill Stone	VHF
CD Liason	ZL1AOX	Ian Ashley	
Building WOF	Committee Members		
Key Custodian	ZL1BUP	Fred Johnson and Betty	
QSL Manager	ZL1IJ	Jack Davison	
Auditors	ZL1AKY, ZL1BAB, & ZL1AMN		
Subs remain the same	\$25-00	Full Membership	
	\$35-00	Family Membership	
	\$15-00	Student or Country	

The 2009 Rollo's Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic was run over the week-end 31st Oct – 1st Nov.



The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club AREC section was running the activity. Having had such an enjoyable time last year on the start boat, I had indicated my interest in participating again this year.

I was set to operate from Base on Saturday and from a boat close to Cambridge for the Long Race on the Sunday. On the Thursday prior to the event, David Nation of Hamilton phoned me and said that their fear that they may be an operator short for the two days had come about. I had asked guys at Papakura on the Wednesday nite when I had first heard that they may be short but there was the need for an operator for both days. Bob Holt's name came to the top of the list and after a quick hello, I ask Bob what he was doing over the weekend and Bob's reply was... ' I'm not sure.... but you're about to tell me aren't



you! ' ... thanks Bob for helping out at such short notice.

We planned to leave home at around 6am to get on site early enuf for the day's activity. Bob was positioned at Pukete Boat Ramp and was to report into base the first 3 boat numbers past that position for each of the races.

My job was to sit at base, just to the left of the coffee caravan and record that information from all the safety points along the river between Hamilton and Taupiri and pass on other information as required.

There were also operators in the start boat and the rescue boat. However..... on the day, one of the safety point operators was unavailable and I filled a position

on the river at Fairfield Bridge on a boat and David Nation who had been there went onto the Rescue boat for the day.



Some of these boats travel the Waikato **with** 2 skiers up, at over 100 miles per hour. The top boats average around 115 MPH so considering the slow parts of the river up stream from Hamilton, their top speeds along the lower reaches towards Ngaurawhia must be over 120MPH.... and water is very hard at that speed! I saw this first hand during The Long Race on Sunday that runs from Cambridge to Taupiri and after the re-group from Taupiri back to Grantham Road boat ramp in Hamilton. The first two of the next three pics shows Warlord, winner of 8 of the last 10 Long Race Classics.



The first shows Warlord screaming past our position on Saturday near Fairfield Road bridge at well over 100MPH while the second is of Warlord on the Sunday approaching 'The Narrows'.



And below the pic shows the two skiers hanging on to the 150' rope for grim life and just a view of spray from the boat.



The weather was fine and sun block was needed both days. The motors on most of the boats were the larger outboard style. The motors in some of the boat only race were a mixture of inboard and outboard.

The following two pics show how much Turbo Charged V8 motor can be squeezed into a narrow race hull... one that needs to keep moving to avoid water spilling over the stern.



The red boat above won the 2008 race with an average speed of 126.25MPH (202KPH) I have not seen the results for 2009 yet.



In all, a great weekend again and one that I look forward to in 2010 if a place is available
David ZL1DK

Intruders

Amateur exclusive frequencies where any non-amateur signal is definitely an intruder.

Amateur HF Spectrum world wide

7.050 to 7.100

14.000 to 14.250

14.250 to 14.350 No broadcasters

21.000 to 21.450

24.890 to 24.990

28.000 to 29.700

From Hong Kong Brett VR2BG has some disturbing news, it seems that in VK, La Trobe University has over-the-horizon radars in VK7 as well as ZL's Southland and they have been heard operating on the 20 & 30m amateur bands.

VR2BG went on to say "They put 600 watts into each of 16 ten-element log period yagis & are used to observe the southern auroral circle. The Tasmanian radar has been operational since 1999 & the New Zealand one since 2005.

NZART Monitoring System has reported hearing both the Australian & New Zealand radars in amateur bands, confirmed with the real time display of both, which is on the Internet. It is not known how long they have been operating in amateur service allocations contrary to licence conditions.

Since that report was filed Brett has notified us that "the relevant authorities had been approached by NZART & WIA. The New Zealand radar has QSYed to 13500 kHz & has not been seen operating elsewhere since. The Australian radar continues to indicate & has been heard from ZL transmitting in the 30m amateur band.

(cut & paste ... section from 2009-11-22 ... WIA-Weekly-news.html)

Nigel ZL2SEA & Diane are planning a trip out to the Mokohinau Lighthouse around the 27th Dec so keep an ear out for them over this period. Contact is worth 4 points towards the NZART Guiding Light Award.

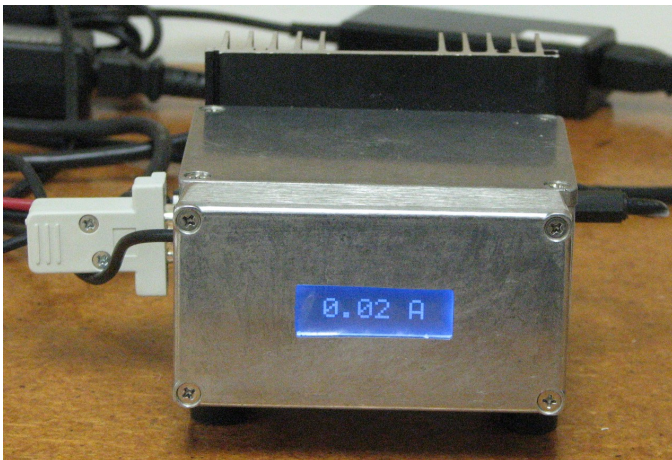
Projects

The Intelligent Battery Charger project has now finished and below is an example of a couple of finished chargers.

The first by Fred ZL1FAV is a fully enclosed stand alone unit that has the visual indicators on the front panel and can also be connected to the computer for adjustment at the same time



The second unit by Cliff ZL1RP is so designed that the display unit can be detached from the charger unit and be mounted remotely with the charger unit hidden under the bench or behind other units. For adjustment the display unit is unplugged and the computer connected to the same socket.



Report on Projects Night 25th November 2009.



A group buy of 2.4 GHz transverters has been made and 13 of the 14 present were keen to purchase and partake in the modifications required to get on the air.

Purchase must be made within 2 weeks to remain on transverter list as supply is limited.

Anticipated time line for this is to start the modifications in the New Year and it will take several months to complete.

David ZL1DK stressed that we should run another project in parallel for Club Members not wanting to do the 2.4 GHz transverter project.

A general discussion followed, and the following suggestions were made:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Picaxe project – easy programming in Basic | Tom ZL1TO |
| 2. UniSolar x2 panels for a 12 volt trickle charger. | Keith ZL1BQE |
| 3. CW keyer/ID for VHF – UHF equipment. | Simon ZL1SWW |
| 4. Voice Keyer for contesting etc. | Keith ZL1BQE |
| 5. Variable voltage, current limited Bench Power Supply | |
| 6. Intercom without electronics | Bruce ZL1TDH |

7. SI570 VFO or signal generator Ian ZL1AOX
8. SoftRock kit of some sort Ian ZL1AOX
9. Crystal multiplier for VHF/SHF marker generator. Harry ZL1BK

Anyone interested in any of the above should contact one of the Committee, or person listed above.

The listed items are FOR SALE by ZL1AKY on behalf.

Oscilloscope Iwatsu DMs510
10MHz Digital Memoriscopes.

Rotator CDE Ham II

Kenwood TR751A
144MHz all mode Transceiver. 20W.

Daiwa AF-606K
All mode active filter.

Trio DM-800
Dip meter. 0.7 to 250 MHz

Ferris 30-102
SWR-Field strength-Power indicator.

Hansen FS-1
Field strength meter.

Dick Smith Transistor Tester

All in good working order with manuals.
If interested contact Geoff on 2984124 for further information.

National System Award 2010 - Historic Places,

is presented by The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, Branch 12 NZART in association with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Based upon the original idea by Wellington VHF Group this is a FUN award available to all amateurs to demonstrate the coverage and use of the National System, to promote our history and category 1 Historic places. The award will run from 1 January 2010 to 7 February 2010.

Points will be allocated for:

1. Contact any Amateur in each NZART Branch area (excluding Branches in recess) via the National System. **1 point.**
2. Contact ZL1UX, official station of Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, Branch 12 via the National System. **3 bonus points.**
3. Contact any Amateur operating from a Category 1 Historic Place (as listed in the Historic Places Trust. Register, available from www.historic.org.nz approx 940 sites) via the National System **1 point**
4. Contact any Amateur whilst operating from a Category 1 Historic Place (as listed in the Historic Places Trust. Register, available from www.historic.org.nz approx 940 sites) via the National System **1 point**

Points are cumulative and each site may only be listed once. Only one branch or historic site may be logged per contact. As evidence of contact the log must record the registry number of the site available from the Historic Places Trust Website www.historic.org.nz. See accompanying document 'NS2010 Award Notes' for accessing the Register available from <http://zl1ux.tripod.com/nsaward.htm>. The Branch List being used for the Award is available from <http://zl1ux.tripod.com/nsaward.htm>.

Participants are requested to note the following key points:

- A number of the Historic Places are private property; therefore participants MUST respect the private property. It is not necessary to enter any private property to log the contact. Participants are expected to be in near proximity to the Historic Place, not on the site.
- There are no definitive boundaries between branches, so participants need to determine which branch they are in, to log the point. This distance will vary for different parts of the country. Only one branch can be logged per contact. Branches in recess DO NOT count.
- Participants are encouraged to learn about the NZART branches and the places that define our history through visiting the Category 1 Historic Places.
- Have FUN, a safe and enjoyable holiday period.
- The award is available in electronic format or hard copy.

See the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club web site ZL1UX for further details

Chasing DX....well....

Maybe not the long distance DX but TX3A on Chesterfield Island in the Coral Sea some 550km North West of New Caledonia was my best chance to work a 'DXpedition' on all 9 bands. Chesterfield Island is a group of 11 islets and many reefs. The land area is less than 10 km² and cover an area 120km by 70km. While the reefs are below sea level there are many cays that have trees and other vegetation making nesting sites for the birds in the region. Some of the sandy cays can be over 3m above sea level at high tide and it is on one of these cays that George AA7JV and Tomi HA7RY set up their station. Their website is at <http://www.tx3a.com/>

Luck was with me on this challenge as the 2 very experienced operators were intending to be on the Island from early November Thur till early December... over a month and just over the horizon!

I started a little after their initial burst .. or so I thought. Here we are now 23 days into their activity and they are still attracting huge pileups on any band they operate in. The skill of handling these pileups determines their hit rates and they are darn good at that. They keep focused on the one thing, not taking strong signals that sometimes bombard them but have those special skills to pick out calls and work stations from all over the world, one after the other without much effort. With some of the weaker stations they work at it till the QSO is completed whenever possible sometimes trying 10 or more times to complete the QSO.

I started on the 6th of November and waded into the pileups. 20m CW was my first contact and away I went. I logged them 3 times that first day on different bands and thought to myself... *this is going to be reasonably easy...* NO, as time moved on and I worked more bands it very soon became hard to catch them on one of the missing bands at a time when I was able to get to a radio. Tomi could easily be identified as the CW operator as he was often responding and 'your call .. 5nn' at anything up to 48 wpm. Now after 23 days he has tired a bit and is down to around 38 wpm! Interestingly enuf, at 48 wpm you can still identify your call and that '5nn' even though you can't send or receive at half that rate! I send using the 2nd button on top of the little 'black box' but have it set at 28 wpm and I am able to squeeze out my call and '599 tu' with the paddle if needed. I prefer the button on the 'black box' over the key... that's the F5 and F6 keys on the computer keyboard of course while using DX4Win.

Anyhow working these guys was a pleasure and they really are a pair of smooth operators. As said, they do have big pileups and they spread us out from their receiving frequency often ‘*up 10 – 30*’ and fill that block. On some occasions on CW they have been just ‘*up*’.

Around half way thru the chase, I once went to the clubrooms when I had seen that they were on 15m. I know it was CW, for once I got to the clubrooms I realized that I didn’t have my paddle or my ‘black box’ but John’s straight key was there. I tuned up and got everything set up ready to send and waited for Tomi to complete the current QSO then away I went.... Oh dear me... someone had been playing with that straight key and the gap was set to around half an inch or so it felt! What a mess I thought I have made but conditions were excellent for 15m at the time and Tomi came straight back ‘*ZLIDK 599*’ so without time to adjust the setting I sent off a ‘*5nn*’ that may have been received as a real mess but I’m in the log and that’s all that really matters now. Other QSO’s were at strange times... 3.30am and 5.12 am .. determined by their operating schedule and propagation.

During the chase I found it harder and harder to catch them on a band that I needed. I had been playing with TRX-Manager, a logging, do-all type bit of software and within its facilities is an alert window. In there you can setup call-signs that you are looking for and there are multi inputs so I set up TX3A and the 4 bands I needed them on. This way I could do other things and have my computer alert me when a cluster listing showed TX3A on one of these bands. Pretty smart and a heap of use so you (I) can go to bed with the computer audio up high and wake when it bleats out the ‘*Callsign alert 10m TX3A*’ and so on and it’s a great system, listed on the cluster section of DX4Win so a quick click on that call line and my radio is set to that frequency tuned and ready to call... just like 3000 or more others around the world! It’s still easier than having to rely on someone else to phone you after they have worked the station and more rewarding (in actual QSO’s logged) than trolling through the bands at all hours of the day and night looking of a call on a band!

I guess the biggest thrill for me was Tuesday early evening, just prior to heading off to the VHF Group clubrooms for the 2010 NZART AGM committee meeting. I arrived home a bit earlier than usual and checked emails and then looked at the cluster to see what TX3A were up to. BINGO... there they were on 12m CW ... the last band I needed to complete the 9 band total. Yep, there they were and so were hundreds ... maybe even thousands of others trying for a QSO.

Bother..... oh well just join in. so away I went pushing that 2nd button. I expect that it was pushed 50 or so time then.... ZL1? Oooh ... push push ... ZL1? ... push push ... 'ZL1someoneelse 599'... *&@%# ... on his 'tu' push push ... 'ZL1D?' (paddle) 'DK DK ZL1DK'... 'ZL1DK 599'.... yippee... worked TX3A on 9 bands CW... first ever call I've worked on 9 bands ... I was like a little kid with a brand new toy ... great ... what's next! Well, I have them on 9 bands CW, 4 on SSB ... so ... one on RTTY would be the thing.

David ZL1DK

Photos from the TX3A website <http://www.tx3a.com/>



George AA7JV & Tomi HA7RY



George operating & below generator repairs



**NZART
AGM**



2010 NZART AGM & Conference

**The Combined Auckland Branches
Invite NZART Members to Auckland for
the 2010 NZART AGM and Conference
Queens Birthday weekend
5th - 7th June 2010**

Venue :- Alexandra Park

Alexandra Park Raceway, Greenlane Road West, Epsom

You may have been to Conference before ... BUT don't miss this MEGA Conference.

Following our NZART AGM will be AGM's and annual meetings of affiliated groups including CXC, WARQ, SPAM, AMSAT-ZL and AREC.

Alternative Programme. After the official opening, welcome and speaker we have morning tea at the venue prior to boarding our coach. Our first stop is Auckland's 328m Sky Tower. With 18 restaurants, 2 hotels, theaters and gaming rooms. A real adventure is in store for all...

At around noon, we move on the historic Ferry Terminal building at the foot of Queen Street. This imposing brick building was built in 1912 and now houses more eating places and specialty shops.

Onto the wharf and we board a Fullers' ferry for a quick trip across the harbour to Devonport. Devonport is on Auckland's North Shore and has held onto its unique heritage and from Mt Victoria the views of Auckland are stunning. Devonport shops will be an experience that will be remembered for a long time as will be the Clydesdale wagon. Be tempted at the Devonport's Chocolate Shop but remember the Saturday evening meal to come. Devonport is home to the NZ Naval Museum and time is allocated for those wishing to take a tour. We return to the venue by coach over Auckland Harbour Bridge and travel around the waterfront then back to the Alexandra Park Function Centre. Sunday morning, after the WARQ AGM and morning tea, we continue our adventure. Sunday's first stop is Stardome, the observatory in Auckland's One Tree Hill Domain. The Heritage Buildings of Onehunga are our next stop. We have lunch at The Landings where you can dine on seafood or pasta dishes. Heading north to Mangere and the Villa Maria Winery Estate for a wine tasting experience and maybe even a small purchase or two! Close to Auckland Airports is Butterfly Creek View the many butterflies and bugs (optional tour) or just sit on the deck overlooking the area. Not far from home now is Mangere Mountain. If weather permits, enjoy the views from the carpark or walk around the rim of the crater. Then you will be returned to the venue to unwind prior to the evening activities. We hope you will enjoy what we have planned for you.

Forums. The forums will keep everybody on the go. The following is a short list of what we have arranged for your enlightenment. Doug Ingham ZL2TAR on Antenna Engineering, Murray Greenman ZL1BPU with Digital Modes, Richard Gamble with Portable/Mobile operating, Mark Gooding ZL2UFI with IRLP, Nigel Goldstone ZL2SEA with EchoLink, Satellites follow on from the AMSAT ZL meeting, Ian Ashley ZL1ACK with SDR, Joreen Brand from Alphonon on Battery Maintenance, John Powell ZL1BHQ with Contesting, Lee Jennings ZL2AL on DXing, Eddie from ICON on DStar, Alan Wallace ZL1AMW with APRS, Doug Ingham ZL2TAR on Digital TV, Simon Watt-Wyness ZL1SWW with VHF - SHF Contests, Operating and other items. All these and more will be on show at Auckland's 2010 NZART Conference. To assist your choice of topic, handouts will be available for all Forums giving a brief insight into what is included in the forums, who and where you can search additional material if you would like to investigate further.

For additional information on the 2010 activities please look at the website at...

<http://www.nzartconference.co.nz/> or contact one of the organising committee members.

Meetings in January

There will be no newsletter in January. Listen to nets.

6th January normal general meeting & picture contest. Bring your best digital pics (10—15 or just 1) along for a fun night.

Other meetings are as normal. See back page and listen out on nets for details closer to the times.

Early reminder of the March general meeting. This will be a ladies night to follow the very successful and enjoyable evening earlier this year.

I wish you all a very pleasant and safe Christmas and New Year.

Cliff.

Historical Booklets

Recently received from Rohan ZL1CVK, some historical booklets with some amazing notes & prices on amateur radio as it was in the beginning. Some of our older members may like to read about the way amateur radio has developed since the early days when DIY construction was the ONLY way to go.

Some of the gems are:-

1930 Radio Guide & Callbook.	Price 2/6.
1928-9 Radio Listeners Guide.	Price 2/6
January 1933 Break In.	Price 9d.
1938 Radio Call Book.	Price 1/-
1931 Radio Handbook.	Price 2/6.
1949 Lamphouse Annual.	Price 1/-

There are many more Annuals in the package, all of historical interest to some. Items of interest include pictures of the early broadcast radio stations, people long forgotten who were the true pioneers of our hobby. Any one who would like to peruse any of these relics of the past can contact me, I am open to suggestions as to a suitable safe resting place for them,

DAVE. ZL1AMN

Papakura Radio Club Inc.

Branch 65 NZART Club Directory 2009

Wellington Park, 1 Great South Road. PO BOX 72-397 Papakura 2244
PHONE 2965244

Club website: <http://www.qsl.net/zl1vk>

Elected Officers

President	ZL1DK	David Karrasch	Ph 2985271	021 560180
Vice President	ZL1FAV	Fred Vermeulen	Ph 2665155	021 728158
Secretary	ZL1AOX	Ian Ashley	Ph 2981810	027 2632440
Treasurer	ZL1MR	David Wilkins	Ph 2999346	021 685847
Committee	ZL4AX	Paul Godolphin	Ph 09 2391188	021 1582521
	ZL1ALZ	John Balsillie	Ph 2336182	027 4948818
	ZL1BNQ	Richard Gamble	Ph 5371238	021 729270
	ZL1ASN	Rolly Adams	radams@clear.net.nz	027 4785040

AREC

Section Leader ZL1BNQ Richard Gamble Ph 5371238 021 729270

Deputy Section

Leader ZL1DK David Karrasch Ph 2985271 021 560180

CD Liaison ZL1AOX Ian Ashley Ph 2981810 027 2632440

Newsletter Editor ZL1RP Cliff Reynolds email cjreynolds@xtra.co.nz

Hall Custodian ZL1BUP Fred Johnson Ph 2986789

Our newsletter is published monthly and normally distributed just prior to the club meeting. Please have articles etc to editor Wed latest before general meeting. Do notify any change of address. After a period of grace, newsletters are only sent to financial members.

Meetings

General Meetings are held at the Club rooms on the 1st Wednesday of each month, starting at 7.30pm. Look at your calendar and mark these nights. The speaker follows the GM.

Project Evenings are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Committee Meetings are held on 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm, unless advised.

Day Time Meetings are on the 4th Wednesday at 1.30pm.

Activity Nights (bowls) etc. are held on the 4th Wednesday starting at 7.30pm.

AREC Meetings are on the 5th Wednesday night, also starting at 7.30pm

Subscription	Full membership and newsletter	\$25.00
	Family Membership and newsletter	\$35.00
	Student or Country DX membership	\$15.00

Working Bees As required.

Branch 65 21 Award For contact with 20 Papakura Club members and the ZL1VK call after 1977. Cost \$2.00. Band Mode endorsements available. Apply to the Club Secretary.

ZL1VK Club Nets

147.325 MHz Sunday at 8.30am. Controller ZL1QK Bill Stone. If the repeater is not available, listen 146.475 simplex.

3.755 MHz Sunday at 9.00am. Controller ZL1AMN Dave Johnston.

Morse Code Practice

3.550 MHz Monday and Thursday 7.30pm John ZL1ALZ.

1960

2009