



# **Newsletter**

# **September 2011**

## **Calendar of coming events.**

7th September General meeting  
14th September Project Evening. 2.4 GHZ  
21st September Committee Meeting  
28th September Technical Evening and DVD. Campbell Island ZL9CI

The speaker at the next General Meeting is Frank Parker, President of the New Zealand Warbirds Association. He will talk about the Warbirds which are based at the Ardmore Aerodrome.

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

## **Papakura Radio Club (Inc.)**

Minutes of General Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011 at 19.38  
Clubrooms, Wellington Park.

**Visitors:** 21 members including Gareth ZL3VP and Tony Krzyewski from Kaon.

**Apologies:** ZL2SEA, ZL1AMN, ZL1ALE, ZL1TRA, ZL1AXV, ZL1TJA, ZL1SLO, ZL1MR, ZL1JNA.

ZL1BNQ/ZL1DK

**Minutes of the July General meeting** as printed in August newsletter were taken as read.

**Matters arising:** Nil

ZL1BNQ/ZL1DK

### **Inward Correspondence:**

Newsletters from Branches 03, 10, 12, 29

7+ QSL cards ZL50VK

Mercury Energy \$118.69

Westpac-00 \$2232.77

Traction magazine from SACC

NZ Post Community Post application link

### **Outward Correspondence:**

Email to NZ Warbirds Association

Phone call to Wallace ZL1WAL re Montgomery Trophy

ZL1AOX/ZL1BIQ

**Finances:** No report.

**Accounts for payment:**

Geoff ZL1AKY Engraving Jumbo Trophy	\$10.00
Ian ZL1AOX August Newsletter	\$62.85
Hughes Roofing (spray lichen etc.)	\$250.00
Richard ZL1BNQ Raffle prizes	\$31.71

Moved ZL1TCF, seconded ZL1UKL that accounts for payment be approved.  
Carried.

**General Business:**

1. Battle of Britain Day 18<sup>th</sup> September at Warbirds at Ardmore – Club station/display proposed. Discussion from members that it would be a good idea. Tower on trailer is available from Kelvin ZL1UKL.

2. Frequency Measuring Contest in September: On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday a training session will be available to those interested.

3. Montgomery Cup engraving quotes for 9 lines by 17/18 characters  
a) Stonex Jewellers Papakura \$125 includes repairing handle  
b) M & M Trophy Papakura \$70 engraving plus \$20 repair  
c) Trophycentre Manukau City \$7 to 10 per line depending on setup  
time After discussion, Ian ZL1AOX given the go ahead to take trophy to Trophycentre.

4. Day/Night Rally in Maramarua Forest: Ian ZL1AOX gave a brief report. Four Branch 65 members (ZL1DK, ZL1FAV, ZL1MDS and ZL1AOX) and 2 from Franklin (ZL1BBZ and ZL1UHT) attended the event run in perfect weather. Good communications from the 6825 portable repeater.

5. Waitakere Sprint: Fred ZL1FAV reported that numbers were down from last contest. David ZL1DK reported that 16 logs had been received to date. CW next Saturday evening.

6. Lines Power Filter: Rob ZL1TJS showed members present a line filter (230Vac 5Amp) which he has removed from equipment and are available for use of members. Contact Rob for more details.

7. ZL6RWC callsign: David ZL1DK advised that this call will be activated

from 1st September to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011. Contact John ZL1ALZ for use of the call and logging details.

8. ILLW: Five groups of Club Members have advised they intend to operate the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend activity on the 20th and 22<sup>nd</sup> August UTC. They are – Ian ZM1AOX maritime mobile near Tiritiri Matangi, Dave ZL1DK, John ZL1BYZ and John ZL1ALZ as ZL6LH at Pouto on the Kaipara Harbour, Fred ZL1FAV and Cliff ZL1RP at Manukau Heads light using ZL1GHT call, Nigel ZL2SEA and Diane as FK4WBT at Le Fare Amedee in New Caledonia and Franc ZL1SLO near Bean Rock as ZL1KBR.

9. Packet Station: Paul ZL4AX advised that the new packet station was upstairs for viewing.

10. ZL1CLUB: John ZL1ALZ asked what the usage of this station was. Not known but the logs on the computer can be checked.

11. David ZL1DK advised he was looking for operators for the next Otoroha Trig road hill climb on the 28<sup>th</sup> August.

12. Rob ZL1RJS asked if the time could be corrected on the 147.325 repeater. Advised that it belonged to the SARG and they have control over it.

Raffle was won by Rob ZL1RJS.

Meeting closed at 20:10 and was followed by a very interesting talk by Tony Krzyewski from Kaon Technologies about the last 35 years of computing. Supper followed.

Doug Gorman Frequency Measuring Contest  
5th September at 2100 NZST

Oceania Contest ph 1st October. cw 8th October

## Ross ZL1VRR Silent Key



I got to know Ross approximately 30 years ago when he and Betti were Post Chiefs for a start team for Rally of New Zealand. David ZL1DK and Dave ZL1AMN were assigned to Ross's team and also got to know Ross very well, if David was late to a stage, Ross would rush around helping put up the dipole. On one occasion David was very late to a stage down around Ohakune way, Ross in his normal manner rushed out to help with the dipole pulling the end out moved backwards to attach it to a fence and fell into a drain hidden by long grass.

Ross continued in the post chief role until approximately 15 years ago when his health prevented him from heading up a team anymore, he got his licence with the callsign ZL1VRR and joined the radio team.

Ross has been out at least twice a year helping with Rally of New Zealand and Rally of Whangarei as a safety radio point operator. Purchasing a motor home later so as he could stay near his next day's point.

Ross was a member of the Western Suburbs Radio Club and joined the Papakura Radio Club five years ago just to keep up with what was happening with us. Ross regularly joined the 2m Sunday net and sometimes the HF net.

Ross was usually the first person to put up his hand to volunteer to do any job.

He will be missed.

Richard Gamble ZL1BNQ

# Geoff Reed ZL1AKY Silent Key

To Celia (ZL1ALK) and members of the family, my condolences from me and the members of various radio clubs and groups which Geoff belonged to.

I have known Geoff for approximately 40 years after I joined the club in 1972

Geoff gained his radio licence in 1952 and joined the Franklin Radio club in Pukekohe soon after. In 1960 Geoff and a few other Papakura radio enthusiasts formed the inaugural Papakura Radio Club (branch 65 of NZART). Celia I believe also got her licence a short time later and supported Geoff in all his activities. Geoff did his time in the club as Treasurer, Secretary and President. Some positions for a number of terms.

The club enjoyed its 50<sup>th</sup> celebration February this year, really pushed along by Geoff. Four surviving members from the inaugural meeting attending.

In the very early days Geoff along with a few other members, would participate in various field day contests. Setting up in places like Hunua, Ponga and Karaka. He did this almost every year until about three years ago. Later participated in the frequency measuring contest, which he had a passion for and drove other members to participate and win many certificates for the club. He participated in mobile rallies, transmitter hunts, county hunters awards and small local contests.

Over the last few years Geoff attended the club's day time meetings, setup more for the retired club members who could not make the night time meetings. These were a great success, subjects – local councils being changed, government's brought down and other such like discussions.

Geoff for a long period of time conducted radio classes. Many past and present club members will thank Geoff for the time and patience's taken to get them through their licence exam.

Geoff was a mentor to many club members as well, fixing radios that had broken down, going around to their homes and helping erect and tune aerials, and helping to get on the air and establish their first radio contacts.

Over the last couple of years, Geoff had taken over checking the clubrooms after a weekend of hireage and cleaning areas that had not being cleaned. Geoff had also become an expert at driving the floor polisher, no mean feat. He only took out one door frame that I was aware of.

Geoff loved his junk sales, a time to trade in and out of old radio parts and gear. Geoff had a great display of vintage radios, taking the time to get them all in working order.

Geoff's passing is a great shock to us all, he always looked to be in good health and had been at the radio club as normal, the night before his fall in health. He will be greatly missed by us all.

RichardGamble  
ZL1BNQ



**Geoff at play**

## **International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend 2-11 Pouto Lighthouse.**

Been there, done that, twice now, and at the end of our second visit we find out more about the name of the lights. The lighthouse (Museum) out on the sand dunes is the Pouto Lighthouse. The Light at the Pouto settlement is the Pouto Point light and the original Pouto Point Lighthouse is now located at the Dargaville Museum.



The Pouto Point Light is located on the banks of the Kaipara Harbour among the holiday and retirement homes at Pouto. There are around 24 homes and holiday baches in Pouto but maybe only 6 or 7 are occupied all year round. That and being at the end of a one hour drive on a gravel road does not offer many visitors to view our activity.





This year we left a little later on the Friday morning. I drove to Pokeno and collected John ZL1ALZ (John 'A'), lots of equipment and food and the 6m aluminium pole and returned to John ZL1BYZ's (John 'B') QTH for the rest of the gear. We took 2 vehicles again this year as the bus didn't pass the COF check!! We were on the way by 8.15am and arrived at Pouto just a few minutes past 12 noon.

On our arrival, John 'B' and I started to unpack aerials and other equipment while John 'A' prepared lunch. After lunch and a cuppa, we completed the unpacking and started on setting up aerials. The 6m pole with a 3m club pole on top was erected on one of the terraces that run down towards the water. John 'B' and I went about setting up the mast with the tri-band beam on top. The pole had the 40 and 80m dipoles attached and were up and ready to go within a couple of hours. The beam is transported semi made up and we only need to attach the elements to the boom and connect the phasing lines, coax and a rope for the armstrong rotator. Well we nearly got everything correct... all but the rope which we somehow managed to capture between the choke and the coax which were both taped to the boom. While we did manage to still use the rope ... how on earth could we have done this ... the rope captured between 2 items just a

couple of inches apart!!! It wasn't too long before all the outside work was completed including earth rods and our attention was moved inside to set up the 2 stations. The John's did this as the complete station was their gear. Both radios were Icom 7000's, both had external tuners and amplifiers.



Soon we were all up and running, contacts started to roll in on both Phone and CW. While conditions were a bit variable, there were times when we had some steady runs. After the weekend we do see that we were not spotted on the cluster as much in past years... maybe not being heard by as many as in earlier years.

John ZLIBYZ had this to say on our extended weekend away. " Pouto the second time around was a very comfortable lighthouse weekend. We had excellent weather all weekend which makes a big difference travelling, setting up and tearing down stations and antennas. The venue of the old customs hall was very good; in fact much to the credit of locals the facilities were improved from what we experienced there in 2003. It was such a great location and with holiday rose tinted glasses one could be attracted to the thought of living there but the one hour trip to Dargaville and civilization put a dampener on those



thoughts. Pouto seemed full of life, one wild life attraction was some seals that were doing very well poaching fish from the locals fishing nets.

We set up two complete stations and had some extra's that didn't get out of the box. The problem of inter station interference was again present but none of us were desperate to operate simultaneously to peruse the issue. The bands seemed somewhat indifferent but even so we managed to log just under 1000 QSO's if that is any measure of success.

No lighthouse weekend would be complete without a few faux pas. We had at least 3 that I can recall, first was the rotator rope used to pull the yagi around to a desirable direction



that we managed to trap it near the centre of the antenna, which is not a good position for controlling the antenna direction. The second was not checking the date and time on one of the logging computers before starting. Finally was a communication breakdown in how we were going to return John's pole to Pokeno. I thought I would travel directly to Pokeno and unload it while John travelled directly to Paerata intending to transfer it to his vehicle and then continue to Pokeno. All this and probably others not mentioned added to a fun weekend away. "

John ZL1ALZ said, "The ILLW is the highlight of my Amateur Radio calendar and with weekends like this it will keep being so. My wife Jill also looks forward to the weekend, 4 days with the house to herself, but it comes with a cost. Jill pre cooks all our meals and once again we didn't go hungry and had enough to last a few extra days as usual.

Because, as David said "been there done that " our plans and preparations were left to the last week. My new amp had been playing up and as a precaution I intended to take the TL9222 as our back up only to have it let out an almighty BANG during last minute pre-testing, so out came the old reliable SB200. The replacement amp wasn't needed as the new amp just managed to limp home on reduced power with the occasional hang up on receive.



This year we had hot showers, these were coin operated, \$2.00 for 2min and \$4 for 4mins, I had a pocket of \$2.00 coins only to find out the shower only took \$1.00 coins. By the second night I managed a few \$1.00s from the locals, now the trick with the coin operated shower is to run the hand basin hot tap until the water is hot, then put the coin in the slot and leap into the shower, that way you don't spent the first 30s of the time shivering waiting for the hot water!

We had a small number of local visitors, maybe the total winter population of Pouto over the weekend, one in particular, Jock, was a wealth of local historical knowledge, as a result we now have a contact person for the South Head”.

Over the weekend, we were not at the radios all the time. There were walks to be had in the area to enjoy the views and the wildlife. Many different birds including Tui, Kingfisher, Yellow Eye (??) and not to mention the early morning wakeup calls from the many Magpies. The Tui's were very busy every morning in a Fire Tree going to each blossom until the lots had been visited then off to another tree. The other wildlife were the seals. Early on the Saturday morning I (David) decided to go for a walk down the terraced bank to the water's edge to take some photos looking back up towards our site. There was a log that had been washed up against the bank that I jumped down onto. At that same time as I landed on the log, the seal, that had been snoozing just out of my sight when on the bank, took off, luckily in the other direction. I quickly took a couple of out of focus shots as he rushed down the rocks and into the sea. Now, safe and at home in the water, he played around spinning about and sometimes lying on his back watching me. Later on in the morning we saw 2 seals cruising up and down a fishing net, picking the fish out as required and playing with them just offshore. Not good for the fishermen but ideal for the seals. The poor fish, from being captured in a net to being extricated by a mouthful of teeth!

While at Pouto, I took loads of video. I had some DVD cameras that I set up and will now have to sort out the video captured that match the times from them. The 2011 ZL6LH video should be the best with video from most of our activities but is always difficult to cut all the video back to 10 minutes or so.

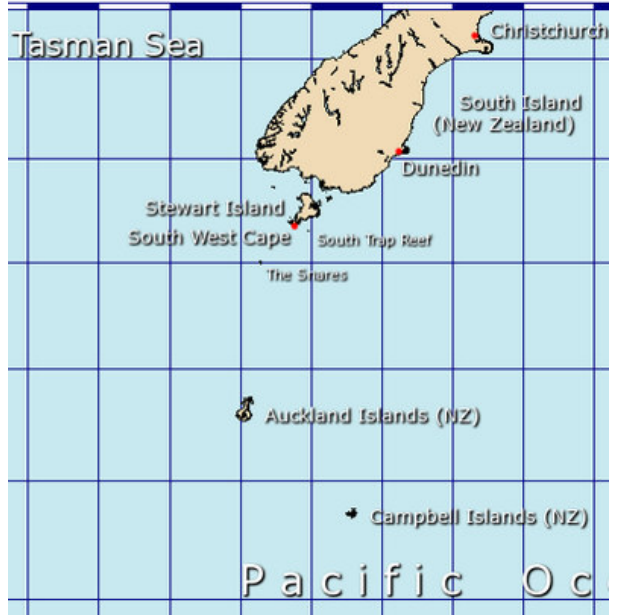
While we were at Pouto, we did find information about a possible for ZL6LH in 2012 as John said above.... we will have to look into that more re access but be assured... we will be somewhere in 2012.

The ZL6LH team is John ZL1ALZ, John ZL1BYZ and David ZL1DK.

## "ZL9CI Campbell Island 1999".

DVD for September will be "ZL9CI Campbell Island 1999". This is a favorite of mine, I think because I know some of the people who were part of the team and I guess it is intriguing as it is on our back door but still a difficult one to do as it is very hard to get permit to land there.

John ZL1BYZ



**Meteorological Station. Campbell Island**

## ZL6RWC

Special Event Call for the Rugby World Cup. 1 September to 31 October. ZL6RWC is available to all Amateurs to use over this period. Anyone using the call must be able to produce a computer log in UTC preferable as an .adif file exported from a logging program. I can also import from an .xls file ok.

Gary ZL2IFB has kindly offered to sponsor a QSL card and I'll manage the QSLing and maintain the log, also up loading to LOTW and Club Log. Gary has produced and will be maintaining the operator schedule using Google Doc. This is an online schedule showing the band slots dates and times. It really is very user friendly, all you have to do is e-mail Gary [Gary@isect.com](mailto:Gary@isect.com) asking him to add you as a user. Once Gary has added you, you then have access to the schedule. At a glance you can see who is on what band slot and what slots are available. Any free slot is available for anyone to use, just put your suffix in the slot, its now there for all other users to see.

Operators to date, John ZL1BYZ, John ZL1ALZ, Gary ZL2IFB, Holger ZL3IO. David ZL1DK

John  
ZL1ALZ

## Clubrooms Water Damage

We are currently looking at and repairing some water damage to the clubrooms.

The seal over the switch box has been letting in water for some time now and a more serious leak has developed, we think, in the gutting on the east side of the building. The gib has been deforming and on removal has exposed the wet timber below. The gib will remain off until the leaks have been repaired and the timber dried out. No serious damage has been noticed at this stage although the timber etc directly below the guttering has not been inspected at this stage.

The pic on page 18 shows Dave ZL1MR inspecting the work to date. At this point we are considering an insurance claim.

Cliff ZL1RP

## Manukau Lighthouse

Fred, ZL1FAV, and myself ZL1RP went to the Manukau Lighthouse as we normally do for the lighthouse weekend. This year we were able to operate from inside the lighthouse by kind permission of the Manukau Heads Lighthouse Trust. We had a steady stream of visitors during the day, but what I want to talk about is my sleeping arrangements and the view thereof.

Originally I was going to sleep in the back of my station wagon but on going out there near midnight on Saturday night in the cold and dark it didn't look so inviting. So instead I decided to sleep upstairs on the floor in the lighthouse beneath the light. The light of course is not operable but with the moonlight streaming in through the outer glass it looked as though the light was on. I thought for a moment Fred had put a torch into the position where the light would have been.

I lay there looking up at the copper dome covering the light, the stars visible through the windows and the glass of the light itself. What a wonderful piece of engineering it was. My mind was kept busy trying to work out how the light would have been collected by the lens and concentrated out through the windows for the ships coming through the harbour entrance. During the day I examined it again no less astounded at the engineering prowess that manufactured it. The light is a Fresnel barrel or cylindrical light. Below are some excerpts from a google search.

A Fresnel lens is a type of lens originally developed by French physicist Augustin-Jean Fresnel for lighthouses.

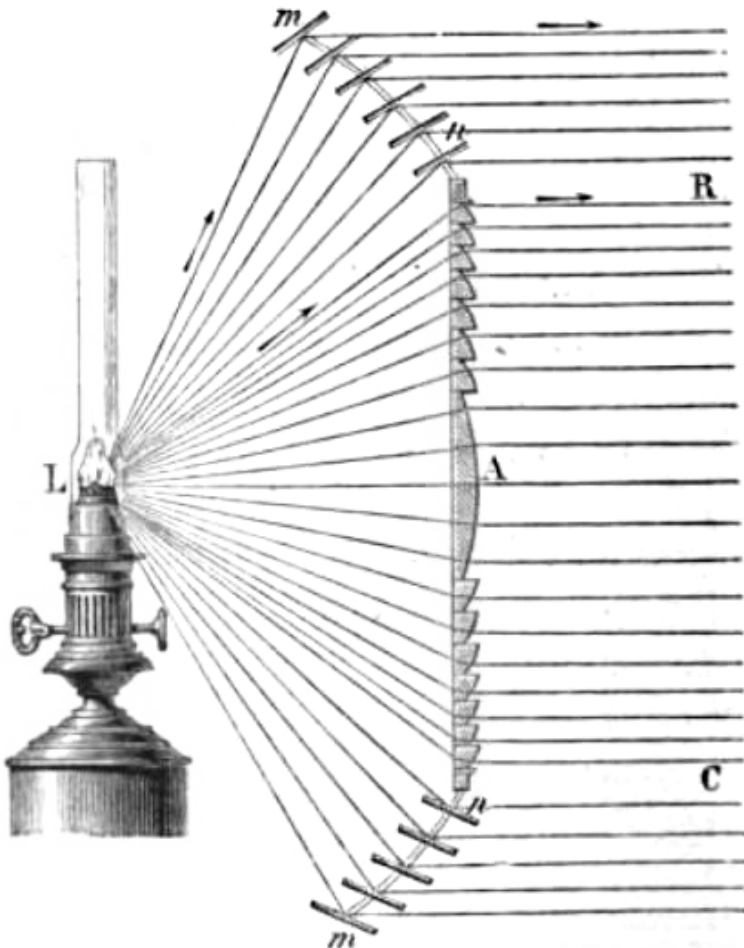
The design allows the construction of lenses of large aperture and short focal length without the mass and volume of material that would be required by a lens of conventional design. Compared to conventional bulky lenses, the Fresnel lens is much thinner, larger, and flatter, and captures more oblique light from a light source, thus allowing lighthouses to be visible over much greater distances.

The Fresnel lens reduces the amount of material required compared to a conventional spherical lens by dividing the lens into a set of concentric annular sections known as "Fresnel zones", which are theoretically limitless. In the first (and largest) variations of the lens, each zone was actually a separate prism. Though a Fresnel lens might appear like a single piece of glass, closer examina-



tion reveals that it is many small pieces. 'Single-piece' Fresnel lenses were later produced, being used for automobile headlamps, brake, parking, and turn signal lenses, and so on. In modern times, computer-controlled milling equipment (CNC) might be used to manufacture more complex lenses.

In each of these zones, the overall thickness of the lens is decreased, effectively dividing the continuous surface of a standard lens into a set of surfaces of the same curvature, with stepwise discontinuities between them. A Fresnel lens can be regarded as an array of prisms arranged in a circular fashion, with steeper prisms on the edges and a nearly flat convex center.





View from my bed up through light. More on lighthouse weekend next month.



**Dave ZL1MR looking at the work in progress with the water damage**





**WARBIRDS** PROUDLY PRESENT

# **BATTLE of BRITAIN**

**71st ANNIVERSARY**



## **OPEN DAY**

**Sunday 18 September 2011**

**10am - 4pm Ardmore Airport**

(ENTRANCE OFF HAMLIN ROAD)



**ENTRY \$10.00 Children Under 14 FREE**

Entry includes a chance to win a flight in a Warbird

● Food and Refreshments ● Scenic Flights

**STATIC DISPLAYS & PRACTICE FLYING DISPLAYS 12.45pm & 2.45pm**

**FULL COMMENTARY ON 'WARBIRDS 88.2 FM'**



Open Day environmental services provided by SuperLoo and Sulo Talbot

**SULOTALBOT**

**Papakura Radio Club Inc.**  
**Branch 65 NZART Club Directory 2010**

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

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

**Elected Officers**

<b>President</b>	ZL1FAV	Fred Vermeulen	Ph 2665155	021 728158
<b>Vice President</b>	ZL1BNQ	Richard Gamble	Ph 5371238	021 729270
<b>Secretary</b>	ZL1AOX	Ian Ashley	Ph 2981810	027 2632440
<b>Treasurer</b>	ZL1MR	David Wilkins	Ph 2999346	021 685847
<b>Committee</b>	ZL4AX	Paul Godolphin	Ph 09 2391188	021 1582521
	ZL1RP	Cliff Reynolds	Ph 09 2336126	027 2291373
	ZL2SEA	Nigel Goldstone		
	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 2968264 021 560180

**CD Liaison** ZL1AOX Ian Ashley Ph 2981810 027 2632440

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

**Hall Custodian** ZL1DK David Karrasch Ph 2968264 021 560180

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 and 4th 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 & DVD Night are held on the 4th Wednesday starting at 7.30pm.

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

<b>Subscription</b>	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 ZL1VK (5 points) and 8 Papakura Radio club members (2 points each) after January 2011. Total 21 points. Cost \$5.00. Certified list and \$5-00 to Secretary, Papakura Radio Club. Address above.

**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**

**2011**