



Auckland Branch 02, NZART

NEWSLETTER

April 2011



General Meeting

on 17 th April 2011 at 1330 hours

at Clubroom

preceded by a BBQ at noon

Steve intends to hold a training session (weather permitting) for Fox hunting. The aim of this exercise is to improve our technique in taking bearings and triangulating the position of the foxes. Some members from other Branches have been invited to attend, and any others reading this are welcome also. You will all need to bring a compass, clip board and felt tip pen. See elsewhere in this newsletter for “Techniques and tips” about fox-hunting.

Copy and paste the following link to see a six minute video of an ARDF event www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPLWCc_rDqk

If the weather is too awful, Steve will conduct a session on setting up for Echo-link.

From President Steve, ZL1FS

Fox hunt. Wallace convened a Fox Hunt last month (on our usual 3rd Saturday of the month meeting day) starting at his QTH in Dingle Road. It was preceded by a BBQ on his terrace and we were pleased to see two other Branches represented in what we hope will be an opportunity for fellowship and friendly rivalry with our neighbouring branches. Five participants brought their home-made antennas.

This time we used 2m gear that was loaned to us by NZART (though it was in a poor state of repair when we picked it up, and it had to be serviced and fitted with new gel cell batteries). We have ideas about how the sniffers (receivers) might be modified to improve their reliability. All four foxes were found, but not all by the same competitor. One hour was allowed with penalty points taken off the score for being late back. Tom Macdonald ZL1TO of Franklin Branch won the event, but he only just beat me by 3 points.

I intend to convene a training day because we (as beginners) have a lot to learn about how to find the foxes. I shall hide a fox (or two) in the Pony Club grounds (100 acres) that surround our clubroom. I believe that we have to learn about taking bearings to triangulate the positions of the foxes. Later in the year, Franklin Branch have intimated that they would like to hold an event in Waiuku forest, which is ideal terrain because whichever way you look, there are pine trees, so a compass and skill in direction finding is an important facet of the sport.

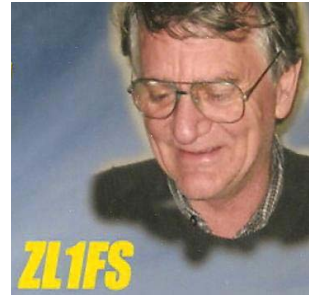
St Heliers Fair. Rain caused us to cancel. This was disappointing because it would have been another opportunity to show the public what we do and hopefully attract new recruits to our hobby.

Maintenance: The St Heliers Pony Club have erected post and rails around their property. Now that this work is done, we shall finish erecting the 80 metre antenna. It is also planned to lay the long awaited telephone line around the boundary. This will greatly improve the speed of our broadband internet connection (the exchange is next door building) and that will improve the latency when operating our Remotely Controlled Station.

Printer: We are grateful to Ray, ZL1AJR for his donation of a brand new three in one colour printer. This enhances our ability to document and instruct Members about various matters that arise in the course of our Saturday morning general discussions about our hobby.

Remits. The next issue of Beak-in will itemize the nine remits that have been submitted. We plan to discuss and vote on them at the May General Meeting on 21st May 2011 (just in time before Queen's Birthday Weekend when the NZART Conference will be held). At that meeting we shall appoint a Delegate to take our votes to Conference.

73
Steve, ZL1FS
021- 0226 - 4981



AUCKLAND BRANCH, NZART (inc.)

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Date / Time / Place: Tuesday 5th April 2011; 1930 hours; Clubroom.

Attendees: Miller, ZL1FS (Chairman); George Marr, ZL1TUJ; Wallace Bottomley, ZL1WAL (Secretary / Treasurer); Gwynne Rowe, ZL1AAR; Ray Chapman, ZL1AJR; Graham ZL1ONL; Ian ZL2ATD

Apologies: Japie ZL1JJN

Ratification of previous Committee meeting:

Steve objected to the necessity to ratify the previous Committee meeting so, he vacated the Chair to allow free discussion about it and about a paper by Selwyn Ross, ZL1BRC in which Selwyn asserts impropriety in holding a Committee meeting on Saturday 5th March alleging that not all members of the Committee had been served notice in writing.

George assumed the chair.

Resolved that Secretary respond to Selwyn Ross's paper on this subject. To point out that the Secretary acted within the Constitution (as explained in the March newsletter); and that Clause 14 (c) applies, viz:

"No Meeting shall be deemed improperly constituted and no decision reached at any meeting shall be invalid solely on the ground that due to accident or inadvertence the requisite notice has not been given to any member or member unless the meeting itself determines otherwise."

Resolved to ratify this meeting: ZL1TJ / ZL1WAL. Abstention by ZL1FS

Minutes of the previous Committee meeting on 5th March 2011 as circulated to the Committee should include apologies by Graham, ZL1ONL and Japie, ZL1JJN.

Accepted ZL1FS / ZL1WAL

Steve resumed the Chair.

Correspondence In:

- Selwyn – a paper about inadequate notice given to Committee members.
- Newsletters from neighbouring branches: Papakura, North Shore; Suburban, Franklin; Western.
- St Heliers Business Association allocating stall space for their Fair.
- Ian Falgar apologising for non attendance while his (leaky) home is being rebuilt.
- NZART providing:
 - List of Members (59) attached to Auckland Branch
 - Request for nomination of Awards: Arthur Godfrey, Amateur of the year, Young Amateur.
- Amateur Repeater Trustees Association (ARTA) seeking a donation and requesting information.

Received ZL1TUJ / ZL1AJR

Correspondence Out:

- Invoices to Members (20) whose subscriptions are due.
- ARTA declining to donate but providing information. This letter was read out.
- Letter to various NZART Members (30) attached to Auckland Branch to advise about our forthcoming General meeting when votes will be recorded on remits; or to seek their proxy if they cannot attend.
- Committee - List of Branch Members showing subscriptions due.
- Committee - List of Attached NZART members analysed by likely recruits.

Approved ZL1TUJ / ZL1AJR

Arising:

Nominations for Awards: Ask Members at the next General Meeting (17th April). Deadline for NZART is 3th May.

Finance: The Treasurer presented a report.

Received ZL1FS / ZL1TUJ

- **Expenses requiring approval for payment**
 - Higgins – Lawns in March \$34.50
 - Steve – Gel cell batteries for the Foxes \$85.66
 - Wallace – Stationary \$43.90

Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1AAR

Arising:

- Gwynne declined to accept the refund of the donation that he made for the St Heliers fair. He said that there would be future fairs where his \$50.00 donation could be used.
- Steve to seek advice from Vaughan ZL1TCG about seeking reimbursement for supplying new batteries (at trade price) for the foxes that are the property of NZART. It was noted that this gear was returned with power switches still on (thus destroying the batteries). New batteries for the sniffers each day is considered to be a consumable expense.

Minutes of Committee Meeting (Continued)

General business:

- **REPORTS:**

- **Foxhunt** on Saturday, 19th February. North Shore has already published it. See April Newsletter.
- **AREC** - None.
- **JWFD** – Results are not yet published by NZART.
- **St Heliers Fair** - Saturday, 26th March - We cancelled our participation due to inclement weather that could possibly damage our rigs.

- **Program:** Suggestions made for future Monthly meetings include:

- Steve wants to convene a fox hunt training day with emphasis on taking bearings and triangulating (rather than bush bashing towards the signal).
- Motat provided that another Branch joins us to ensure sufficient numbers to qualify for discounted entry.
- Demonstration / speaker about AMSAT soon to be launched. Ask Ian Ashley.
- Echolink. Steve has material to demonstrate how to set this up.
- Other modes of operation: IPL, PSK31.

- **Antennas:**

- The collinear antenna is working.
- Erection of the 80 m antenna has been delayed pending post and rail fencing on the south boundary.
- The beam is to be realigned by Steve with help by a selected few during the week when it is safer.

- **Computers, Internet, Printers:**

- Ray has donated a new HP three in one colour printer / scanner / copier.
- Three other computers have printers attached that are capable of printing black only.
- Gwynne donated a router for a LAN between the computers that facilitate printer sharing.
- George will provide Ethernet cable when Wallace tells him the lengths required.

- **Maintenance external:**

- Painting the roof and back wall is outstanding.
- Phone line. George reported that Brian ZL1UXB can work on Sunday which is the only day that will suit both him and Scarbros. It is suggested that since the post and rail fence has been built, the phone line could safely be run around the perimeter of the property.

- **Maintenance internal:**

- Alarm wires have been laid. Steve to connect it.
- Steve reported that one battery has failed (due to old age). He will obtain another reconditioned replacement battery.
- Complimentary remarks have been made about the new curtains made by Christine Watson.

- **Shelves:**

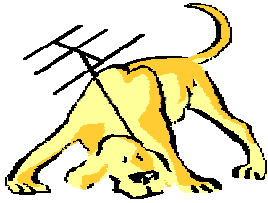
- Duplicate Break-in magazines are being dumped.
- QST, 73 and CQ magazines are yet to be shelved.
- Gear and Junk in the corner of the clubroom is to be stored in wide shelves (west end).

- **Projects:**

- Wallace's suggestion to modify the 2m sniffers will be put to Vaughan for NZART approval.
- Peter ZL1LS has constructed two more foxes for 80m. However they do not have the ARDF keyer.
- More kits for sniffers for 80m fox-hunting are needed. Wallace will provide George with supplier details so that he can negotiate prices.
- Construction of the band switching unit for the Remote Station is progressing.

Meeting closed 21:40 with supper provided by Ray, ZL1AJR.

Signed _____ Date _____
(Chairman)



The Fox Hunting page

By Wallace, ZL1WAL



Techniques:

1. Go to two (or three) different places that you can identify on the map.
2. Orient the map, that is align it with some other feature that you can see on the map.
3. Spend 5 minutes taking bearings of all of the foxes that you can hear.
3. Turn about face to get a null reception. Thus your back is the most accurate bearing to this fox.
4. Draw a line on the map or on the clear plastic covering it (essential in damp conditions).
5. Number the line to correspond with the fox's code (e.g. "MOE") that identifies it.
6. Perform the same plot for the next fox's code that you hear (e.g. "MOI"); and so on.
6. A third position from which bearings are taken will triangulate each fox's lair for a better fix.
7. Be aware that reception at 2m is line of sight. Land spurs may cause signal shadows.
8. Study the map carefully and **plan a route** that will take you to each intersection of these lines, trying to **arrive there when the fox is transmitting**. Think ahead about your exit.

Tips:

9. Do not try to bush bash towards a fox. Its transmission will stop after one minute and it will not resume until another four minutes have elapsed. Thus you will waste valuable time.
10. If you try to read your map while running / walking, you will not be able to see the fine details. Stop, plan ahead and memorize land features that you expect to pass; then move swiftly.
11. Keep your thumb on the place on the map where you are, and orient the map as you go.
12. Be vigilant for the orange / white prism as you approach a lair. It should not be hidden.
13. Do not stop at the fox, else you will betray its presence to other competitors who may be nearby and notice that you have stopped. Keep moving and write its code later.

Worked example:

1. Run 150 metres towards the centre of the map, and identify on the map the place where you stop. For example, X on the map is an old (man-made) seat. [Time taken = 2 minutes].
2. Orient the map then listen. Take a bearing and draw a line on the map and number it according to the code heard. This will take 1 minute. Take a bearing for each of the other foxes that can be heard [6 + 2 = 8 minutes elapsed so far].
3. Advance a further 150 metres or until you identify the place where you stop, say, where a bridge crosses the stream. [3 + 8 = 11 minutes elapsed so far].
4. Take bearings as before. Note that only three foxes may be heard. [11 + 6 = 17 mins].
5. **Plan your route** to visit the intersections / locations of these three lairs. [17 + 4 = 21 mins].
6. Endeavour to arrive at each intersection when that fox begins to transmit, else you will have to wait another five minutes. Allow 5 minutes to find each fox. [3 x 5 + 21 = 36 minutes].
7. Take more bearings **from higher ground** to locate the other two foxes. [6 + 36 = 42 mins].
8. Plan your route carefully to reach these foxes when they are active. [2 x 5 + 42 = 52 mins].
9. Run to the Finish. [Total time elapsed = 3 + 52 = 55 minutes].
10. Score = 5 foxes @ 20 points each + 1 point per minute for early return = 105 points.



Tune-In To The World - Amateur Radio Gets People Talking

Monday 18th April 2011 Listen to special event station ZLWARD on the National System. Email the details of your contact with ZL2WARD and receive a QSL card, to: ZL2WA@clear.net.nz

Promoting Our Hobby

In Australia, the Foundation Licence and a revamped WIA have done much to bolster their numbers, and it is making a concerted effort to better publicise amateur radio and all of its benefits. They are saying to their clubs: "This is your club's opportunity to recruit not only new applicants for your training courses, but also some new club members. We need to re-introduce the general public to amateur radio, let them know a little of what it is about, without scaring them with too much technical jargon. Our public face will be on display, as well as our professionalism. The common appearance of Club, WIA or special National Field Day branded clothing all helps with the presentation. Excellent operating procedures and tolerance will be on display. The event is not intended to be a traditional contest, with isolated groups of operators sitting on remote hilltops. We wish to generate as much positive public exposure (and traffic on the bands) as possible. Local repeaters can play an important part in keeping something happening. The safety of the operators and general public must be high on our priority list during station set-up, operation and close down. Cabling bird's nests should be well hidden, electrical safety must be beyond question.



Your Audience

Remember your audience, for young people, sound and visual activity is important. IRLP, Echolink, Slow Scan TV, ATV, colour and movement will appeal to the younger audience. HF may be interesting, but the noise should not dominate the activity. Radio direction finding is very popular, if you have the room to safely run it. Get people involved without being intimidating. Over the next 10 years, most of the Baby Boomers will officially retire. They will be looking for new hobbies and challenging activities to keep their minds active. Add the following generation, "Gen X's" who are now facing empty nests with a few spare dollars and a spare room at home. What an opportunity for amateur radio. Whilst our WIA 100 Year Centenary will be interesting for some and may provide some initial attraction, our display should equally show the future. Are you up to the challenge?

The above two snaps depicts what Auckland Branch intended to do at the St Heliers Fair last month. It was a pity that rain caused us to cancel.

E, X and Y suffixes to call-signs are to become available to NZ Amateurs. This change will make additional (temporary) single letter callsigns available to contesters and DXers, a more interesting callsign; give a great deal of pleasure to those contesters and DXers a unique callsign; allow name-based callsign combinations for those whose name begins with these letters (e.g. Ernie, or Xavier).

At the same time RSM will extend the temporary commemorative callsign series from ZL10– 90 to ZL10-100.

The Suburban ARC advise that they have been allowed to retain their ZL1ZLD and ZL1ZLF callsigns.

Next Official Broadcast is on Sunday 24 April at 2000 hours.

Trans-Tasman Phone and QRP phone contests on 7th May 2011

Full rules: <http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/transtasman/>