





New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters

ZL1AA - AUCKLAND BRANCH 02

JULY

2017

 **General Meeting** 
SATURDAY JUL 15 @ 13:30
David Probine, ZL1TND
Alternative Energy

Club Room will open at 10:30 AM
BBQ @ 12:00

David has been working on a few new items and will share some of his findings with us.



VHF NET MOVED TO THURSDAY

ZL1AA

Auckland Branch 02
PO Box 18003
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Club Officers

President:

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027 227-7779

Vice President:

George Marr, ZL1TUJ
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Japie Nel, ZL1JJN
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ZL1AA Information:

Branch 02 Clubroom is located at
400 St Johns Road
St Heliers, Auckland
(Off the main road)

Google Earth:
36.869730s, 174.843860e

Clubroom is open every Saturday from
1030 hrs. for members and guests to drop
by for coffee and a chat!

General meetings are held on the third
Saturday of each month at 1330 hrs.
(except Dec / Jan).

Committee meetings are held on the first
Tuesday of each month at 1930 hrs. ALL
paid members are welcome to attend.

Affiliations:

10-10 International
NZART
AMSAT-ZL

Club nets:

Thursday:
145.775 MHz @ 1930 Steve, ZL1FS NCO
HF Net on Hiatus

10-10 Down Under Chapter Net:
28.530 MHz 2230Z Fridays
(1030 NZST Saturdays)

Branch Contacts:

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(09)-528-1177

Branch Examiners:

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Station Trustees:

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Wes Printz, ZL3TE

Branch Technical Advisers:

Simon Watt-Wyness, ZL1SWW
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SUBSCRIPTIONS

❖ Subscription Rates:

Regular \$45 (discounted with a \$5.00 raffle ticket if paid by 28th Feb 2017)
Youth Rate \$20

- ❖ Post to PO Box 18003, Glen Innes, Auckland 1743, direct credit may be made into our bank account **12-3047-0076823-00** or pay the Treasurer or Secretary at the clubrooms.
- ❖ A pro rata rate is offered to a new member joining part way through the year. The financial year runs from 1 November 31 October
- ❖ Receipts will be distributed either in person at meetings or via mail/E-mail.
- ❖ Branch financial year currently runs from 1 December to 30 November.
- ❖ A current Membership Application / Renewal Form is required with all payments to assist with accurate record keeping. Available from the Secretary, or by download http://www.qsl.net/zl1aa/br02_mem_form.pdf
- ❖ All members' information is kept confidential unless approval is given for it to be released.

Newsletter material submissions are welcomed and appreciated by your editor. You may submit material in a variety of file formats: .TXT .DOC, or just plain old E-mail. Photos are accepted also. Please submit material via E-Mail to: ZL3TE @ dxer.com I will use what I can with the space available at the time of newsletter editing.

From The Chair...

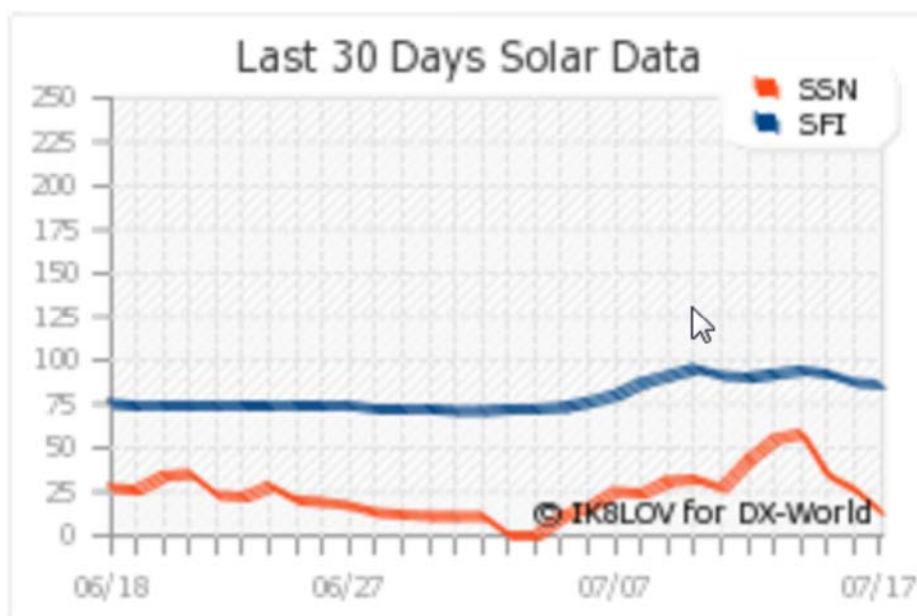
July, We have started on the other side of the year. Not to much activity, Solar activity has been dismal, with the exceptions of the recent flares and CMEs. 6 Meters has been rocking in the Northern Hemisphere the past few days.

I have recently returned from the motherland, where I had a chance to participate in ARRL FD with a group of friends. We had 6 transmitting stations on the air, about 10 Operators, finished with a little over 5,000 QSOs in the log in 24 Hours. The Real shock was leaving to 30-40 Deg Temperatures behind.

I have attached the DV 4 MINI power point presentation which Jonny, M6HVV showed at the recent general meeting. He wanted to share the details as there was a lot of interest.



73, Wes, ZL3TE



Looking for something to do on the weekend? Need to fill some more DXCC Challenge slots? work new Countries, work new modes? Why not operate a short while in a contest. There are several to choose from. More Information can be found here:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php>

JUL 17-24

- CWops Mini-CWT Test: Jul 19 / 20
- NAQCC CW Sprint: Jul 20
- QRP Fox Hunt: Jul 21
- NCCC RTTY Sprint: Jul 21
- Scottish DX Contest: Jul 22 / 23
- SA Sprint Contest: Jul 22

JUL 25-30

- CWops Mini-CWT Test: Jul 26 / 27
- RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data: Jul 27
- QRP Fox Hunt: Jul 28
- Feld Hell Sprint: Jul 29
- **RSGB IOTA Contest: Jul 29 / 30**
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Every Month: NZART Official Broadcast: 3900 kHz LSB last Sunday of month at 2000hrs and at 2100hrs. (Also broadcast on the National Link and available on the NZART Website).

Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc.)

Minutes of July Committee Meeting

Place / Date / Time: Clubroom, Tuesday, at 4th July 1945 hours

Attendees: George ZL1TUJ presiding, Wallace ZL1WAL, Gwynne ZL1AAR, Steve ZL1FS, Logan ZL1LMN, Japie ZL1JJN, Ray ZL1AJR, and Olivier ZL1SX,

Apologies: Jeff ZL1TOU, Wes ZL3TE

Sustained ZL1WAL / ZL1AJR

Minutes: of the previous Committee meeting on Tuesday 6th June 2017 Taken as read and accepted ZL1WAL / ZL1AJR

Correspondence In:

Newsletters: Franklin, Papakura (by post); Hibiscus Coast; North Shore Auckland VHF Group (by e-mail)
Branch reflector of Newsletters from North Canterbury, Hastings / Napier, Rotorua (their last), Hamilton, Gippsland,
NZART – ERN forms for exam result notification.
Auckland VHF Group – receipt for our donation. (Their newsletter page acknowledges our donation)
Jonny Bannister M6HVV – Copy of power point presentation about DMR (for newsletter)

Correspondence out:

Ian Twentyman ZL1UMC – thanks for donating 120 metres of new coax.
Selwyn – notifying us that our web page at www.gsl.net/zl1aa had a warning notice not to trust it.
Eben Bryns – advising exam date and time.
Selwyn – warning not seen by Wallace at his QTH (using Vodafone and subscribing to filter service).
Received and approved ZL1WAL / ZL1AJR

Finance:

Finance Report – Nov 2016 – July 2017.

Received ZL1WAL / ZL1AAR

General Business:

Reports: (This heading includes a repository of all matters that have not progressed since their introduction)

Maintenance outstanding

Action

Power outlets on South and East side of building - wire routed but not terminated	ZL1FS
Projector mounted on Ceiling – wire routed but still some connections	ZL1XS
Wattle trees branches may be collected for firewood - thanks to Jimmy	ZL1TGS ZL1AAR
Junk stacked beside Nally tower is to be dumped	ZL1TGS
Water pipe to be extended and buried.	ZL1FS
Back steps need replacing. George will buy wood cut to size	ZL1TUJ
Front steps –. Material purchased and is stored in Steve's lockup	
Painting west wall (paint and brushes available)	ZL1SKL
Bait for mice has been laid in kitchen area	ZL1AAR

AREC:

Gwynne will report at the next general meeting about AREC discussed at the NZART Conference
He indicated that amateurs are valued in other parts of NZ.

Visitors:

Roberto Cavallo IZ1UWI (living on his yacht)
Expect Jeffrey Santor from Philippines (DU)

- **Exams:** Excellent passes by Eben Bruyns ZL1EEE and Annie Ryan ZL1RYN

Montgomery Cup; Wallace has arranged engraving for Whangarei ZL1AM and will send it to them.

Nets:

VHF net on Thursdays at 1930 hours in future; Steve will start as Netmaster (in rotation).
HF net will be suspended meanwhile until Ray has his RCForb login set up. George offered to help him.

Newsletter: Deadline 11th July.

Membership: Eben ZL1EEE and Annie ZL1RYN have joined, pending their trip to USA in August

Computers: PC on board table needs low profile video card (to connect to projector).

Network / phone line:

Usage has been 3.3 G bytes per month (from data collected Jun 2016 – May 2017)
Greater usage occurs each Saturday morning when PC is used to surf web.
Change ISP to Skinny (Xtra) 4G \$40 for 40 GB. Wait until next month

Meter reading: 49931.6

(Jul Committee Meeting Minutes Continued on page 5)

Remotely controlled station

Subcommittee needs to meet to finalize policy document.

Antennas:

The tri-band top has been mounted on the Nally tower pointing NE. The coax needs to be re-routed.

Reports of performance are good.

Base of tri-band tower needs to be re-affixed to concrete base. The upper pole has been taken down.

Rotator needs to be disassembled and serviced. Wallace has undertaken to do this.

Meanwhile, the Tri-band Yagi has been mounted on the Nally tower and points NE (to Canada & USA)

Winch handles have been taken off and put in front desk drawer.

Wes will be in USA in June/July and will return with control cable for it

Trench for coax and control cable needs to be dug. There is black conduit at west end of clubroom.

Tower at Murrays Bay. Ready to be taken down; then make a second trip to transport it.

Future Events:

Suggestions for entertainers / speakers for general meetings 2017

July 15th David Probine ZL1TND – Wallace will ask him and the subject.

August 19th John Martin ZL1GWE - Intruder watch monitor – to be confirmed?

Spring Soren ZL1SKL to plan SOTA and advertise expedition.

Musick Point Radio Society Branch - ARDF talk by ZL1WAL and event

October 23rd – 25th JOTA Branch 29 – expecting 500 scouts and guides, so they need home stations to be on the air. Prepare dialogue / questions to make your QSL interesting for them, e.g, Which troop? Where? Badges obtained? Are you good at maths? Intend to get a Ham licence?, etc.

Other business:

Selwyn has the microphone for the club's VHF rig which may have a faulty switch. Meanwhile, Steve has lent his VHF rig, so that we can still monitor calls from 146.625.

Contests. An enquiry has been made if Members want to form a team to operate from the clubroom?

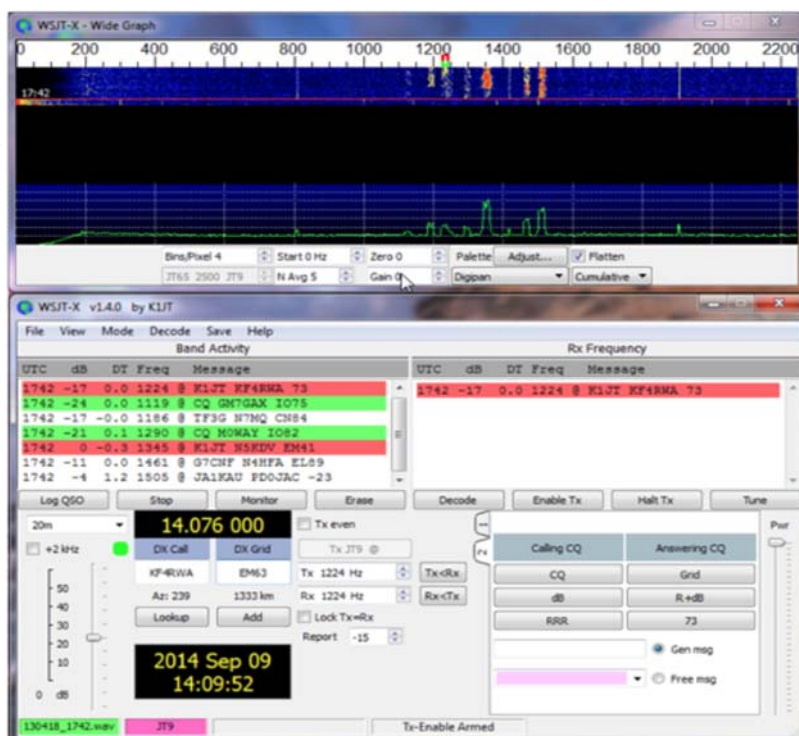
These have been fun in the past. Suggest contest and dates available please.

The meeting concluded at 2045 hours with supper provided by Logan Nicholl and Ray Chapman – thanks.

New FT8 Mode Included in WSJT-X Beta Release

July-12-2017

A beta release of [WSJT-X](#) version **1.8.0-rc1**, includes a new FT8 mode, featuring a faster turnaround, and it's already showing up on the bands. According to the [notes](#) for the candidate release, FT8 offers "sensitivity down to -20 dB on the AWGN channel," and contacts 4 times faster than JT65 or JT9. An auto-sequencing feature offers the option to respond automatically to the first decoded reply to your CQ. The beta WSJT-X also offers a new mode for accurate frequency calibration of your radio, improved CAT radio control, and enhanced JT65, QRA64, and MSK144 decoder performance. According to [The Daily DX](#) on July 11, Frank Donovan, W3LPL, reported what he called "lots of semi-rare DX activity" using the new FT8 mode. He mentioned A92AA, OY1DZ, VR2XMT, and YE2IJ on 40 meters, and TR8CA and YI3WHR on 20. — Thanks to [The ARRL Contest Update](#) and [The Daily DX](#)



Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc.) Minutes of June General Meeting

Date / Time / Place: Saturday 17th June at 1335 hours / Clubroom

Attendees: Jimmy ZL1TGS (presiding), Wallace ZL1WAL, Ray ZL1AJR, Japie ZL1JJN, Simon ZL1SWW, Olivier ZL1SX, Selwyn ZL1BRC, Ian ZL2ATD, Jonny M6HVV as per the Attendance Book.

Apologies: Wes ZL3SE; Gwynne ZL1AAR; Soren ZL1SKL; Bob ZL1AFU; George ZL1TUJ (pro forma).

Sustained ZL1WAL/ ZL1AJR

Minutes:

General meeting on 20TH May 2017

Minutes having been circulated, taken as read and accepted ZL1WAL / ZL1AJR

NZART Conference

Gwynne ZL1AAR apologized for not being present to give his report, (being reluctant to spread a virus).

Wallace relayed that Gwynne had attended the AREC meeting at conference where he reported that AREC and amateurs were well regarded in other parts of the country, especially by Fire and Police. This was endorsed by Jimmy who for 20 years has been a volunteer fire fighter.

Reports from the Committee:

AREC: Japie wished to correct Minutes of the June Committee meeting insofar as the recent training exercise was compromised **only with respect to activation not being possible** while phone wires had been removed from the CD building while fibre upgrading was in progress.

ISP:

Simon ZL1SWW reported that the connection was temporarily stopped last week because Soren's pay as you go phone (loaned to us) account had run out. Simon is writing a script to reset the router should this occur again.

Wallace circulated usage averaging 3.4 Gb per month for the previous year. Half of this usage occurs on Saturdays. A 40 Gb plan by Skinny will be more than adequate.

JWFD contest:

Results are published in the Break-in magazine showing us second to Whangarei in the Montgomery Cup section of the contest.

Selwyn has notes available that provide operating tips.

RFI project: Thanks were given to Olivier ZL1SX for his donation of a ferrite ring (that Olivier said has reduced RFI in his own shack by 3 S-points).

Projector: Thanks also to Olivier for SVGA cable to run the overhead projector from a PC.

Nets:

Net day has been shifted to Thursday and most directories have been updated.

Steve ZL1FS will be first net controller. He intends to rotate this task to others.

The HF net is suspended until Ray is operationally listening on RCForb.

Because 80m is so noisy, a suggestion was made to consider shifting the HF net to 40m.

Tri-band tower:

The folding pole has been demounted while the plinth's foundation bolts are to be inspected and reaffixed with epoxy. Meanwhile temporary rope guys are supporting the plinth.

The rotator is ready for mechanical servicing. New ball bearings are obtainable locally.

Nally tower:

Wes will be returning after holidaying in The States with control cable for its rotator.

General Business:

Remote station: Another sub-committee meeting is yet to be held to finalise policy.

Ray has since had RCForb installed on his PC. However, he is not operational yet.

Spectrum analyzer: Simon ZL1SWW is servicing the back-light problem caused by a faulty inverter.

The meeting concluded at 1400 hours

Guest Speaker: Jonny Bannister M6HVV gave a Power-point presentation about his DMR radio and the net though which he can connect anywhere world-wide. He demonstrated it and he worked two stations in Arizona - crystal clear. Many questions were fielded. Jimmy thanked him and Members responded with acclamation. Jonny said that he would make the power point file available for publishing in the newsletter.

This demonstration concluded at 1500 hours.

BBQ at noon provided by Gwynne ZL1AAR and cooked by Eben Bruyns, a visitor intending to sit the license exam.