



Auckland Branch 02, NZART

NEWSLETTER

June 2011



General Meeting

on 18th June 2011 at 1330 hours
at Clubroom
preceded by a BBQ at noon

Agenda:

- General Business
- Report on the NZART AGM and Conference by Gwynne, ZL1AAR
- Digital Modes by Paul, ZL4AX

ZL100IBM



IBM logos, circa 1924 and 1972.

Our Branch member, John Martin ZL1GWE, has obtained a temporary Callsign: "ZL100IBM" to mark the occasion of the 100th birthday of IBM. He says:

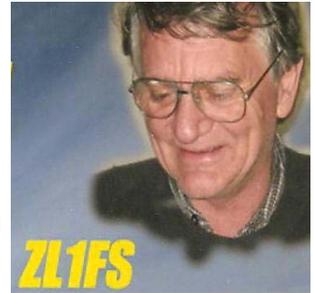
"Apart from already pledging my time to the IBM community service on behalf of NZART as the Monitoring System Coordinator, I and hopefully my other IBM colleagues intend to promote Amateur Radio throughout the world. Amateur radio, also affectionately known as "ham radio", is a hobby of constructing, experimenting and communicating as we know. But we also have a serious side too in terms of supporting the emergency services through the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) which is a sub group of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART) that organizes emergency communications in times of disaster.

"You will find me on air, from 16th June 2011, using the callsign "ZL100IBM on the National System, VHF and HF bands, I personally look forward to celebrating the 100 years on this special occasion and throughout the ensuing year. My colleagues from IBMHAMS group, will also be celebrating the day probably around 14.347 - which is the normal IBMHAMS frequency from 1600 UTC i.e. W0IBM. Look out for other IBMers, I will arrange a suitable special QSL card for the occasion - throughout 2011/12.

From President Steve, ZL1FS

Silent Key: Many of you will know by now that Vic Boric ZL1AW passed away last month. See back page.

Montgomery Cup: Congratulations to our team that won this cup. It is awarded to the Northern District Branch that scores best in the Jock White National Field Day Contest in the 80m / 40m and CW / 'phone section of the Contest. In recent years we have been coming second. The team was managed on the day by Gwynne, ably assisted by Selwyn who did the preparatory planning of antennas, feeds and rigs. Japie assisted in erecting the poles and trimming the antennas to their most effective lengths. Tents were erected by Wallace and Graham. Other operators were Ray on 80m 'phone, Andrei on 80m CW and James on 40m 'phone on Saturday evening. Wallace was press-ganged into 40m CW operation at the last minute. Sadly, I had to be out of town that day. Control click [here](http://www.nzart.org.nz/assets/pdf/2011/FD-2011-PDF-results.pdf) to see the full results <http://www.nzart.org.nz/assets/pdf/2011/FD-2011-PDF-results.pdf> [Ed.]



Remits: The May General meeting considered, discussed and voted on the remits that were put to the NZART AGM held at Upper Hutt at the beginning of this month. Gwynne ZL1AAR was appointed as our Delegate to take our votes there. He will report back to us at our next General Meeting on the 16th of this month. Interestingly, remit 7 about increasing the allowable transmitted power to 1,000 watts PEP, we voted against it. However on a count of the votes at Conference, this remit was carried after amendment to include the 160m band also.

KX3 by Elecraft: See elsewhere in this newsletter, breaking news from last month's Hamvention at Dayton, Ohio about the release of this transceiver. A spokesperson said that it is essentially a software defined Radio (SDR) competing with the Flex3000. At least one member of the branch intends to order one when it goes on sale in September. At the base price of US\$800.00 who would not want one? This is not meant to be an advertisement.

New Member: We welcome Chris Thode, ZL1CST as a new member of our branch. Last year he sat and passed his licence examination at our clubroom. Other members, please introduce yourselves to him.

73
Steve, ZL1FS
021- 0226 - 4981

Audio heard on National Radio on Wednesday 8th June 2011 at 19:12 de Ian Robinson, ZL2ATD

"Sound of New Zealand: 100 Years of Radio"

In the first of a series looking at the history of radio in New Zealand, Jack Perkins discusses the fear and caution engendered by this new and powerful electronic medium, and also excitement during the pioneering days. (22'09"):

- 1895: The first transmission of Sparking CW was from Lands End, UK to send an emergency distress signal
- 1903: New Zealand was the first country to pass legislation: "Wireless Telegraphy Act" to control this medium
- **1909 was the first amateur radio voice transmission** [Ed.]
- 1911 (nearly 100 years ago on 26 July) was the first broadcast from Station ZLW from the old General Post Office in Wellington but later shifted to the top of the Tinakori Hills where there was less interference from the trams.
- 1923: a licence to operate a **receiver** was required. Applicants had to:
 - Provide a circuit diagram of the apparatus intended to be used
 - Swear on the Bible to a Solicitor or JP, not to disclose any secret messages that might be heard
- Receiver licences issued:
 - 1930 8,500
 - 1935 152,000
- **1924: First amateur two-way radio conversation by Frank Bell of Shag Valley, Otago with London on the evening of 18 October that made world headlines.** [Ed.]
- 1929 Transmissions broadcast from USA could be heard during the day because there was no interference then.
- 1930 During these depression years, radio provided social bonding between people / neighbours as they visited each other to share their new found pleasure listening to radio serials.
- 2011 100 years of broadcasting in NZ.



The Fox Hunting corner

de Wallace, ZL1WAL

- As reported last month, George has since sourced some more 80m snif-fers as kits at NZ\$49.00. Who wants to be included in a bulk order?
- I read that Wellington VHF group held a fox hunt last month.
- The Fox hunt training day will be held – possibly in July. You will need to bring a compass and a 9v battery.
- In August we shall hold another Fox hunting event.
- Region 3 ARDF Championships are to be held in Melbourne on 24th and 25th September.
- To find out more about ARDF (Fox hunting) see the 6 minute video. Cut and paste into your browser: www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPLWCC_rDqk



AUCKLAND BRANCH, NZART (inc.)

Minutes of General Meeting

On: Saturday, 21st May 2011 at 1330 hours

At: Branch Clubrooms

Present: Steve ZL1LS (Chairman). Others are recorded in the attendance book.

The President welcomed visitor, Vaughan Henderson, ZL1TGC, Northern Councillor of NZART.

Apologies: Wallace, ZL1WAL (overseas).

Sustained ZL1FS / ZL1AAR

Silent Key: The Meeting stood for a minute silence in remembrance of Vic Boric ZL1WG who became a SK on 5th May 2011.

Business:

- **Minutes:**

The minutes of the previous General meeting held on 16th April 2011 was accepted.

Passed ZL1FS / ZL1AAR

- **Jock White National Field Day Contest:**

The Branch team were congratulated on winning the Montgomery Cup – Northern District.

- **Maintenance:**

There is a water tap leak at the back of the club rooms, not especially difficult, but urgent and Steve will give guidance.

- **ARTANZ:**

The 'ARTANZ' group was discussed with the meeting. Vaughan was able to give a rundown on background. Furthermore, he advised that a recent agreement with 'Kordia' had been reached and 'Kordia' were dropping their proposed rental for NZART Club repeaters on 'Kordia' sites. To remove this rental was a major objective of the 'ARTANZ' group. Branches involved will go back to the situation of paying for the use of power etc. as in the past.

- **Delegate to NZART AGM and Conference**

The Meeting was asked to appoint a delegate to Annual Conference. ZL1AAR accepted and was given 'discretion' rights.

- **Remits:** Those in attendance were reminded that to vote they had to be NZART financial members, attached to Auckland Branch, and should not have voted at any other Branch. Remits were read, discussed, considered, clarified and voted upon.

1. passed 8---0;
2. lost 2---6;
3. passed 5---3;
4. passed 6---2;
5. lost 0---8;
6. lost 0---8;
7. lost 0---8;
8. lost 2---6;
9. lost 0---8;
10. lost 0---8;
11. lost 0---8;
12. lost 0---8;
13. lost 0---8.

- **General Business:** Selwyn mentioned that George ZL1TUJ had not been on the Sunday VHF net/news yet.

- **Training Course.** Vaughan ZL1TGC advised that the next course for 'hopeful hams' would be run at 400 East Coast Rd. North Shore on the weekend 6-7th August 2011. Persons interested in attending should contact North Shore Branch.

- The Meeting thanked Vaughan for his being with us and the very helpful clarification that he gave to a number of matters.

Meeting closed at 1450 NZST.

Notes were taken by ZL1AAR.

AUCKLAND BRANCH, NZART (inc.)

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Date / Time / Place: Wednesday 8th June 2011; 1940 hours; Clubroom.

Attendees: Steve Miller ZL1FS (Chairman); George Marr ZL1TUJ; Wallace Bottomley ZL1WAL (Secretary / Treasurer); Ray Chapman ZL1AJR; Ian ZL2ATD; Japie ZL1JJN

Apologies: Gwynne Rowe, ZL1AAR; Brian Wilson ZL1UXB

Sustained ZL1WAL / ZL1TUJ

Minutes of the previous Committee meeting on 3rd May 2011 as published in the newsletter

Taken as read and accepted ZL1FS / ZL1AJR

- **Arising:** Steve reported that Vaughan agreed to support our claim for reimbursement for replacing the Gel cell batteries for NZART's 2m foxes.

Correspondence In:

- Break in magazine
- Newsletter (April) from Wellington VHG. It contains an article demanding an apology from NZART for leaking info to NZHAMS that led to innuendo being spread about their branch.
- Newsletters from neighbouring branches:
 - May: Papakura, North Shore, Western; Franklin, Suburban;
 - June: Papakura, North Shore, Western
- Newsletter from Hamsphere.
- Vaughan Henderson, stating disagreement with our suggested mods to the NZART 2m fox hunt gear.
- ARTANZ announcing success in negotiating with Kordia for free repeater hosting for 5 years.
- Selwyn advising that Vic Boric ZL1WG had died.
- Bob Gyde (attached to our branch) stating that he has worked out predictions for 6m band propagation.
- Subscriptions from four members.
- Japie with specifications of Elecraft's new KX3. (See Newsletter).
- Fred Benson NC4FB, providing link <http://nc4fb.org> to examination learning material and the pool of questions.
- Gwynne with JWFD results – Auckland Branch wins the Montgomery Cup for the Northern 80 /40m CW / Phone section.
- Colin Robinson offering components available from his late father-in-law's business.
- Selwyn reported having found the source of RF being emitted from the new LG computer together with suggestions about how to suppress it.

Received ZL1FS / ZL1AJR

- **Arising:**
 - George said that antennas can be erected on town houses in the Ed Hillary Village. He said that he would assist Rose Veale. (WARO is on 144.6625 at 1900 hours every night of the week for 30 minutes).
 - Wallace reported that NZART is recognizing students that pass the exam with 100% (60 /60).
 - We are hoping that Gwynne will be able to bring back the Montgomery Cup from Upper Hutt, otherwise George offered to get it on his next trip to Wellington. (Whangarei Branch won it last year [Ed.]).
 - Steve reported that he had picked up these components and delivered them to Suburban Branch (who would have better use for them).
 - Steve also reported that all the gear belonging to the late Donald Webster has been taken by his son (yet to get a licence) which means that our obligation to help the family ceases.

Correspondence Out:

- Receipts to subscribers

Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1JJN

Finance: The Treasurer presented a year to date report.

Received ZL1TUJ / ZL1FS

- **Arising:**
 - Subscribing Members are shown as 32 but 4 more subs have been received since this report was written (41 in 2010).
 - There is \$155 in the Estate Sales on Consignment Account. Wallace needs to check with Selwyn about the time limit (if any) that was negotiated with Mrs Schrickel before he pays 50% of this sum to her.

Minutes of Committee Meeting (Continued)

Finance (Continued)

- **Expenses requiring approval for payment**

- R Higgins – Lawns in May \$34.50

Approved ZL1FS / ZL1WAL

- **Arising:** Steve is to submit expenses for 80m antenna expenses (brackets, etc) so that the Treasurer can write down the reserve made from the donation by Capt Bill, ZL1BJN to this project.
- George suggested that we apply to Auckland City for the cost of paint, say \$200.00.

General business:

- **Reports**

- AREC: None
- JWFD results: (See newsletter—"President's letter")
- Examinations: None held, though one student is studying for the exam.
- General Meeting: Remits were debated and voted. Only Remit 7 (increased power) was contentious. It was lost at our General meeting, but it was carried by our neighbouring branches and carried by a count of votes at the Conference AGM.

- **Antennas**

- Erecting 80m
- Realignment of the beam

Action by

Steve
Steve

- **Maintenance / projects**

- Painting the roof
- Painting the walls
- Battery replacement
- Computer LAN for printer sharing*
 - * Ray provided the 3 in 1 printer
 - * Gwynne provided a LAN switch
 - * George donated a printer sharer.

Action by

Steve / Graham
Working bee
Steve
Wallace.

- Alarm connect (Japie laid the cable)
- Surveillance connect to laptop
- Filing – magazines
- Shelving – storing gear / junk
- Phone line
- Assemble Antenna switch kitset * Japie (his winter project)

Steve
Steve / George will obtain 2 cameras.
Wallace
Steve / Selwyn
Brian Wilson and helpers on a Sunday

- * George has provide a kitset to automate switching for the Remotely Controlled Station.

- Modify NZART 2m fox hunt gear

Steve / Simon

Our suggested modifications were discussed with Vaughan Henderson. Only minor modifications will be done before returning the gear to NZART (required in November). Wallace suggested that to improve stability / reliability, new batteries should be used at each outing.

- 80m ARDF Sniffers. George has found a source of kitsets at a price of \$49 (US \$35) each. Who wants to assemble these? Volunteers please. Other branches on-sell these for \$100.00 or hire them out to participants.

- **Program for General Meetings** (Suggestions only until speakers are confirmed)

- 18th June – Brief report about the Conference by Gwynne. Steve will contact Paul ZL4AX about leading a discussion on Digital modes.
- 16th July – Fox hunt training (weather permitting). George will investigate sources of compasses.
- 20th August – Fox hunt (weather permitting) else presentation about UFOs. (The Region 3 ARDF Championships are to be held in Melbourne on 24th and 25th September).
- 17th September – Software defined radio / Satellite project

- **VHF net on 144.6625 on Sunday at 2015 hours.** George, ZL1TUJ will represent Auckland Branch. Wallace undertook to have the newsletter composed in time for this.

Meeting closed 21:00 with supper provided by Ray, ZL1AJR.

Signed _____ Date _____

(Chairman)



KX3 Transceiver (Preliminary)

*This is advance information. Specifications and option/accessory availability are subject to change without notice.
KX3 Ordering and Shipping dates will be Fall-Winter 2011
Basic price US\$800.00*

- 160-6 meters, SSB/CW/DATA/AM/FM modes
- 10 W PEP (100 W with KXPA100 amp)
- Only 1.5 pounds (0.7 kg)
- Current drain as low as 150 mA



- Internal wide-range antenna tuner (ATU) and battery options; built-in speaker
- Advanced DSP provides dual watch, noise reduction, noise blanking, autonotch, stereo audio effects
- Software-defined radio (SDR) architecture *plus* roofing filters (KXFL3) for excellent dynamic range
- Operates in data modes (PSK31/RTTY) with or without a PC; includes RX I/Q soundcard outputs

Ultra-Compact Home/Portable/Mobile Station

The revolutionary Elecraft KX3 puts the world in the palm of your hand! Despite its small size, it covers all amateur bands from 160-6 meters, operates in all modes, and has DSP-based features usually found only on larger radios.

The KX3's unique form-factor allows you to operate from anywhere. Fold out the rear tilt-feet for use on a desktop or picnic table, or add our rugged mobile mount bracket for vehicle use. For extreme portability, you can add the internal wide-range ATU, 8-AA cell battery pack with NiMH charger, and adjustable KXPD3 keyer paddle. With a whip antenna, you can even operate hand-held.

In receive mode, current drain can be as low as 150 mA – about one-half to one-third that of competing all-band portables. Transmit efficiency is also excellent, further improving battery life.

Full-Featured, yet Easy to Use

The KX3 features a large front panel with all controls optimized for convenient use. You won't have to dig through menus to set the power level, adjust the keyer speed, or change filter settings. And the KX3 has the same full-size display as the Elecraft K3, so all operating information is available at a glance.

The KX3's tutorial-style manual explains *how* and *why* controls are used, so new hams will be experts in no time. Of course you'll also have Elecraft's legendary customer support, and free firmware upgrades via the internet.

KXPA100 External 100-Watt Amplifier

Our high-performance KXPA100 home/mobile amplifier seamlessly integrates with the KX3 as well as other popular 5- to 10-W transceivers. It has its own internal ATU option (KXAT100) with dual antenna jacks.

This is not an advertisement, but Control-click on [Ultraportable Elecraft KX3 | vk2rh](#)

SOLAR CYCLE 24

I have long favoured the web page <http://www.solen.info/solar/> as a source of current information in narrative and graphic form as to what is or is not happening on the Sun.

Now, at a time when there are doubts as to how active or how reliable the current solar cycle may become, there comes to notice the following internal link within that web page

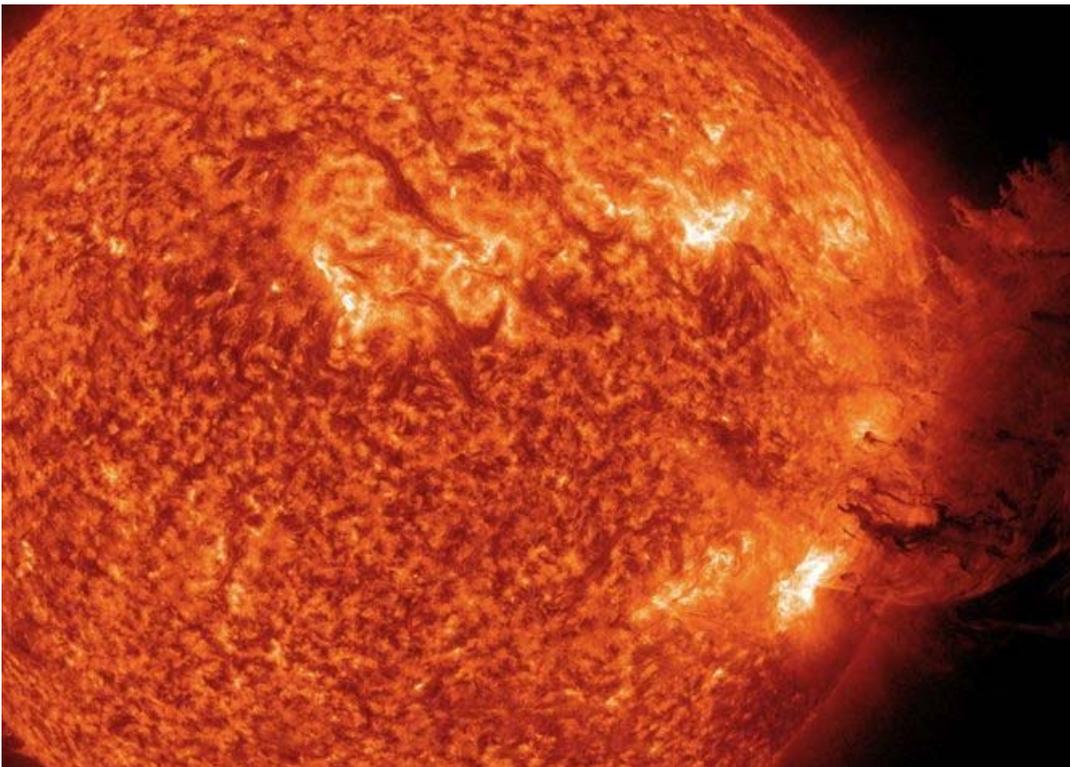
<http://www.solen.info/solar/polarfields/polar.html> . This is derived from Stanford University research and offers guidance not of the "here and now" variety, but of major propagation trends on a slowly developing basis. As such, it may be worth monitoring for years to come.

de Selwyn ZL1BRC

DRAMATIC SOLAR FLARE

ASA obtained this image of the sun on 7 June 2011 as the sun unleashed a dramatic solar flare. It was an M-2 (medium-sized) solar flare, an S1-class (minor) radiation storm and a spectacular coronal mass ejection (CME) coming from sunspot complex 1226-1227. The CME should deliver a glancing blow to Earth's magnetic field during the late hours of June 8 or June 9, 2011.

A solar flare is an intense burst of radiation coming from the release of magnetic energy associated with sunspots. Flares are our solar system's largest explosive events. They are seen as bright areas on the sun and they can last from minutes to hours. We typically see a solar flare by the photons (or light) it releases, at almost every wavelength of the spectrum. The primary ways we monitor flares are in X-rays and visible light. Flares are also sites where particles (electrons, protons, and heavier particles) are accelerated.



It looks like someone kicked a clod of dirt in the air," says solar physicist C. Alex Young of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in a [Youtube video](#). "I've never seen material released in this way before--an amazing, amazing event."

Much of the plasma thrown up by the blast simply fell back to the sun--indeed, that's what makes the footage so dramatic. In the movies you can see blobs of hot gas as large as Earth making bright splashes where they hit the stellar surface. Some plasma, however, reached escape velocity and left the sun in the form of a coronal mass ejection.

Control Click to see the [movie](#) of this solar flare.

de Wallace, ZL1WAL

VIC BORIC ZL1WG – SILENT KEY

We regret to report that Vic, one of our senior members, passed away on 5 May 2011. He was survived by his widow, Pat, two daughters and grandchildren. Vic's funeral service at Panmure was attended by Ray ZL1AJR and Selwyn ZL1BRC representing the Branch.

Vic was not widely known except by older branch members, but he had given some years of service as Treasurer and as Newsletter organizer and distributor. He was also a valued technical and practical adviser to numerous club members on such matters as antenna installation and operating skills, until failing health terminated his ability to drive.

Clearly in his younger days Vic had been a bit of an athlete. Pat had found and displayed at the gathering after the funeral service, a photo of him airborne, under a trapeze complete with water skis, lifted by a kite towed by a power boat. This was sometime in the 1950s. As if that was not enough, a Rotorua newspaper also carried a report of him as the first barefoot water skier (no skis) in New Zealand. He was a member of the Auckland Water Ski Association, and was also apparently active in road cycling at recreation level.

Vic is well remembered by George Marr who was a 2 way mobile radio salesman for Plessey when Vic was on the engineering side. To paraphrase from George, "Vic was a magician in transceiver tuning. He could tune up valve rigs to exceptionally low noise figures, to levels ahead of the times and not bettered until more modern rigs came along."

Because of a voice impediment (stuttering), Vic preferred CW operation over voice transmission, but he did not let that deter him. By dogged persistence from his QTH down near Panmure Basin, he achieved DXCC Honour Roll status.

And so we bid farewell to another operator of the old school who did very well by his personal skills without all the modern bells and whistles to assist him.

Notes compiled by Selwyn Ross ZL1BRC

Notes From Conference in Upper Hutt

The weekend commenced with a meeting of Council. The following is a report on business discussed:

- Incoming Council members, Warren Harris ZL2AJ, Stephen Hayman ZL1TPH, Simon Lewis ZL4PLM and Terry Thomas ZL4TAE were welcomed. Michael Owen VK3KI, President of Wireless Institute of Australia, and John Longayroux VK3PX, Treasurer of the Wireless Institute of Australia, were invited as special guests.
- Next, Council elected Vaughan Henderson ZL1TGC as vice-president. Vaughan was elected unopposed.
- Following a suggestion from Evan Sayer the Association Treasurer, Council agreed that a review of the current NZART Constitution is to be undertaken. One of the main aims of this review is to gain charitable status and potentially save having to pay tax.
- Council resolved that subscriptions for 2012, will remain at \$95 for Transmitting / Non-Transmitting individual memberships. Those members who pay their subscriptions before 30 November, will go in a draw to win a dual band hand held radio.

KORDIA

As was mentioned in the May Official Broadcast, we have had some very excellent news that KORDIA will not be charging NZART for the rental on their sites, for the next 5 years. Although we have yet to confirm this in a formal contract, Vaughan Henderson ZL1TGC and Otago Branch 30 are to be heartily congratulated for their by no means small involvement in bringing this about. Thanks to you all.

Rothschild Cup

North Shore Branch received the Rothschild Cup this year, with a total of 13 successful candidates passing their amateur radio examination in 2010.

Amateur of the year award

Finally it was announced that this year's very worthy recipient of the Amateur of the year Award, was David Searle ZL3DWS for the tremendous results he achieved in his Buildathon projects. David has recently moved from Christchurch for obvious reasons to Bondi in Australia.