



**Auckland Branch**  
N Z Association of Radio Transmitters Inc.

## **NEWSLETTER**

**November 2012**



# **GENERAL MEETING**

**Clubroom, 400 St. John's Road, Kohimarama**  
**Saturday 17th November, 2012**

**BBQ at 1200 - 1300 hours**

**Meeting starts at 1330 hours**

### **Agenda**

- Reports from your Committee
- Other business

**Working bee to finish loop antenna**



**+ Our Tardis has been cleaned**



## From the Secretary, Wallace, ZL1WAL

**Gate Key:** Another key has been “hidden” in a black box, magnetically attached to the back of the metal post. (The original gate key went missing at about the time that the gate had been knocked over while concrete footpaths were being laid). We regard this gate as a nuisance, but Auckland Council (the land owners) have materials stored in the buildings. A burglary there and reports of undesirable characters hanging around prompted Council to patrol the property regularly and keep the gate locked. In the event that a Member finds himself and his car locked in, there is an emergency gate key hanging just below the alarm pad, inside the clubroom door.

### AREC and Civil Defense Shakedown:

We had hoped to report the outcome of a review of AREC communications exercise. However the AREC Regional Committee does not meet until 22nd November.

**Antennas:** Poles have been positioned around the yard, and halyards have been attached ready to hoist the big loop antenna. During the course of our working bee on this project, a Member was heard to say, “This is the best Saturday I’ve had here. Everybody seems to be busy doing something.”

Some reflective tape has been put around one pole that is directly in the pathway of cars approaching / leaving the clubroom. Committee members were thankful for this as they were leaving in the dark after our last Committee Meeting.

This project will be continued after our next General Meeting day on Saturday 17th November. We need some more helpers to hold guy ropes, etc.

Afterwards, tests need to be made to tune the antenna to perform at its best.



**JOTA:** On Labour Day Weekend I went to Camp Maynard near Albany to set up a Fox hunt for Scouts and Guides at JOTA (Jubilee On The Air). This was one of a dozen activities that were staged by North Shore Branch, for hundreds of uniformed Scouts, Guides, et alia, who came to gain their Communications badge. There were a total of over 500 attendees (including parents) over the entire weekend. Some camped there overnight.

**JOTI (Jamboree On The Internet)** was facilitated by a roomful of laptops running Echolink. This proved to be very popular.



**Fox hunting:** Elsewhere in this newsletter, is a map of Churchill Park in Glendowie where we shall put on a Fox hunting event for the Scouts and Guides of St Heliers and Glendowie. Our (hidden) agenda is to sew seeds as part of our recruiting drive for new Hams. Similarly, we intend to take Fox hunting to the Orienteers who stage summer events in parks throughout Auckland City. Every week they have an attendance of up to 200. More sniffers !

**The perfect Amateur Property:** Elsewhere in this newsletter is a description of our Member, John Nixon’s ZL1FR property that is ideally suited to hosting his remotely operated station at Dairy Flat. I recall that when a subcommittee began to investigate and commission a remotely operated station at our clubroom, we were kindly invited by John to a BBQ at his dairy flat property to see how he was running his remotely controlled station. (At that time he was living in Hobson Street in the centre of Auckland where the Sky-tower wiped out any chance of listening to the Ham bands). Sadly on the day of our intended visit, he rang to say that one of his sheep had become entangled in his hex beam and in fright had dragged it down the hill. Bugger!



**Remotely Operated Station:** Our President, George ZL1TUI, is presently commissioning his K3/0 (it is an empty box with knobs) to communicate with his K3 at the Clubroom. As more and more plasma TVs pollute their localities with awful interference (ask Ray ZL1AJR), more of our Members will want to link to the Remotely Operated Station for their QSOs.

# Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc)

## Minutes of Committee Meeting

**Date / Time / Place:** Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 1940 hours / Clubroom

**Attendees:** George ZL1TUJ (presiding), Steve ZL1FS, Wallace ZL1WAL, Ray ZL1AJR, Japie ZL1JJN, Gwynne ZL1AAR.

**Visitor:** Allan ZL1AJH

**Apologies:** Giovanni ZL1BRA,

Sustained ZL1WAL/ ZL1AAR

**Minutes** of the previous Committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012

Taken as read and approved ZL1FS / ZL1AJR

### Correspondence In:

Newsletters: North Shore, VHF Group, Music Point Radio Club

Graham Barton ZL1GMB thanking for help setting up Fox hunt at JOTA on Labour Day Weekend

Selwyn – VHF Group newsletters are still being sent to him in error.

Andrei – Confirming update of our web page except Members' 'phone numbers in the Directory until they give permission.

Dennis ZL1TAY – Scanners UNIDEN UBC 92-XLT for sale \$70.00

NZART Infoline and details of our Member John Nixon's ZL1FR Dairy Flat QTH for sale to a ham.

Members – subs and donations from ZL1AAA, ZL1SSM, ZL1DV and ZL1GWE

VHF Group confirming change to Spectrum mailing address

Matthew McLean wants to sit the licence exam

Tony Burns – wants to visit and renew his hobby

NZ Post – Prepaid envelopes

Kordia – Details of contest in January 2013 for VHF

ASB - Cheque book

### Arising:

The Membership renewal form should provide a tick box to "Prevent information contained herein (including phone numbers) being disclosed on Membership lists and the Directory on the Web page."

The visitors did come to the Clubroom last weekend. Matthew is expected to sit the exam soon (on a Sunday at 1300 hours. Tony need only apply to NZART for a new General User Practicing Certificate

.Received ZL1WAL / ZL1FS

### Correspondence Out:

Nicky Prior – Request for key to Churchill Park Scout Building and, in return, offer the St Heliers / Glendowie Scouts and Guides a Fox hunt and /or JOTA-like event or evening next year.

VHF Group requesting change of mailing address.

Graham Barton ZL1GMB – to offer help at JOTA on Labour Day Weekend to set up Fox hunt activity.

### Arising:

Wallace described his function as organizing the JOTA Fox hunt by providing Instructions, maps and clip cards; then delegating its operation to the Rangers assigned to this activity. They placed the foxes in the treed area of about two acres where dozens of scouts were camping. This was only one of several activities for hundreds of uniformed children, ranging in age from 8 to 16, to earn a Communications badge. Wallace said that he ran it as a competition by posting scores on a display line. He supplied Graham Barton ZL1GMB – North Shore Branch organizer – with electronic format of Start Sheet, Clip cards maps and Results calculator so that the activity may be run again in future years.

Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1FS

### Finance:

The Treasurer **did not present** the Year to date Finance report. However he stated that since last month's near zero bank balance, donations have been received and sales of components have replenished the cheque account. Short term savings are zero, and the Term deposit will mature in February 2013.

Whereas we had budgeted to endure a \$500.00 loss for the year, excess expenditure over income for the year to date (with one more month to run) was now over \$2,000.00. Installation of the phone line explains much of this deficit.

The 2012 Budget should be analyzed at next month's Committee Meeting before recommending a budget for the incoming Committee and then recommending subs and donations for 2013.

<b>Expenses:</b> -	Wallace	Clean Port-a-loo	\$40.25	
		Stationery Stamp	<u>\$23.00</u>	\$63.25
	R Higgins	Lawns		\$36.80

Approved ZL1TUJ / ZL1AJR

**Fund raising** – no applications have been made yet. George says that he has time now.



## Minutes (continued).

### General business:

#### Reports:

**AREC** Review of the Shakedown exercise will be discussed at a Regional meeting on 22 November.

**Examinations** - none.

Wallace is yet to contact Barry Gordon ZL1AAA about a possible candidate.

Matthew should be ready to sit soon.

**Membership** - Drive for Members from Educational Institutes. George says that he will be canvassing schools next week and will raise the subject with them for promoting Amateur radio. Wallace has NZART flyers which can be used and will send these to George for copying,

#### Batteries

Clubroom - OK.

The Fox charger has not been made available for pick up yet.

At JOTA weekend there were three spare batteries, so only two of the foxes' batteries had to be charged overnight (using Ray's ZL1AJR regulated charger).

**Nets** – OK

#### Maintenance:

Gate sign not affixed yet

Drain

Tap

Port a loo - cleaned

#### Antenna project:

Bases for the 80m loop have been positioned in the yard and bamboo poles selected.

Gwynne has made some guy attachment points.

Steve has attached halyards and put red reflecting tape on the pole in the centre of the yard.

Another working bee is needed to string the wire and test it.

#### Remotely operated station:

George reported that he and Simon ZL1SSW had tried unsuccessfully to get George's K3/0 (client console) to interface with the K3. Meanwhile George will attend Musick Point Radio Club tomorrow to inspect their remote station. He requires more support.

He has two relays to be used for switching antennas.

The question of continuing this project was debated at length because other operating stations are being compromised by having to unplug antennas from the K3 (in its difficult to get at position). It was resolved to attach only the new 80m loop antenna (which will operate on all bands).

Meanwhile, other Client users have not been able to connect to the Server and therefore to the K3.

Alternative software: RCForb (the Blenheim remote site), MixW, TRX Manager - no progress in evaluating these.

#### Equipment out on loan - OK

#### Computers,

LAN – is working. Wallace will commission a PC at each operating station.

Wallace has purchased (US\$92.00) a CD containing Band Master, DXAtlas and IonoProbe. This suite of software is used to read DX spots and automatically tune a transceiver and /or listen to beacons, lookup QRZ, etc.

**Photocopier** – George will provide more copying paper. There are adequate supplies of toner in its lower cupboard.

**Beam Alignment and rotator replacement** – To be done when Steve and Japie are available together with their respective trucks, hopefully on 17<sup>th</sup> November when the loop antenna will be completed.

#### Program for last General Meeting (on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month):

**November 17<sup>th</sup> Antenna erection working bee - Continuation of last month's activity**  
**Testing**  
**Adjusting**

#### JWFD

Gwynne advised that he will not be available on the day in 2013 but will assist the weekend before.

Gwynne has written a list of further things to check and will make this available.

Gwynne offered to collate and submit the results (as he did this year).

Wes ZL3TE will be asked to manage the team again next year.

Retention of the Montgomery Cup should be our Branch's top priority next year.

This topic is to be put on the agenda again for the final Committee Meeting of the year on 4th December at 1930 hours.

**Other Business:** Keys to the gate were discussed. Wallace will hide another key. It was suggested that the \$10 deposit for clubroom keys should include the gate key as well.

**The meeting concluded at 20:50 with supper provided by Ray ZL1AJR.**

# Perfect Amateur Radio Property



Impeccable 5 acre property at Dairy Flat, 20 minutes drive North from downtown Auckland. Two cottages, caretaker at entrance, owner's cottage on hilltop.

New 50 ft Nally tilt-over, crank-up tower set in massive foundation. Currently using hex-beam but tower and rotator can take any combination of beams. New Kenwood TS-480HX (200 watts), excellent DX. ADSL internet installed allowing remote operation.

Property, buildings and fencing in pristine condition. Large new 3 door barn for workshop, garage etc. Farmhouse has new roof and insulation. Established orchard and flower beds, creek. Caretaker permanently maintains property, absolutely nothing to repair.

New Pak'n'Save at Silverdale 2 minutes drive, Orewa beach 10 minutes away, 1.5 km from North Motorway.

No noise, beautiful views. 3 large paddocks all newly fenced. Regrettably selling because of prolonged cancer treatment in Australia.

Asking property cost at \$975,000.

John Nixon ZL1FR/VK4BJN  
john.nixon.amsdr@gmail.com

## + DX Cluster

<http://www.f5len.org/cluster/index.php?what=hf> Click on the Band of your preference. Real time information such as this, is a useful tool if used imaginatively. Simply put out a call on this cluster and the world will turn their beams towards you.  
[Thanks to Paul, ZL2CQ Ed.]

## + USPS Seeks to Phase Out IRCs



If the US Postal Service ([USPS](#)) gets its way, it will no longer sell International Reply Coupons (IRCs) after January 27, 2013. According to the [October 23 edition of the Federal Register](#), there is not sufficient demand for the USPS to continue offering IRCs to customers; however, per the Universal Postal Union ([UPU](#)) regulations, the USPS must continue to exchange and redeem IRCs that have been purchased in foreign countries and presented at USPS facilities. Comments on this proposed change [will be accepted](#) through November 23, 2012. IRCs provide foreign addressees with a prepaid means of responding to inquiries, solicitations or other types of communications -- such as QSL cards -- that are initiated by US senders. IRCs are exchangeable for

postage stamps by postal administrations in member countries of the UPU. Each IRC is equivalent in value to the destination country's minimum postage price for an unregistered airmail letter. The purchase price in the US is currently \$2.20 per IRC. -- Thanks to [The Daily DX](#) for some information.





ARRL Information Technology Manager Michael Keane, K1MK, is reporting that while Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)) system is currently down, it is expected to be back up by 9 AM EST (1400 UTC) on Friday, November 9. "While the system is temporarily down, radio amateurs are not able to access LoTW or upload their logs," Keane explained. "No data has been lost, and everyone's records are intact. We understand the problem and we are in the process of restoring service to LoTW. Since both the Logbook of The World service and the [Online DXCC](#) service are connected to the ARRL Awards System, radio amateurs are not able to access either service until the system is restored. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and want to assure the amateur community that the ARRL is working diligently to restore service to these popular programs."