



Auckland Branch

N Z Association of Radio Transmitters Inc.

NEWSLETTER

October 2013



Saturday 12th October 2013

(Earlier because the regular 3rd Saturday clashes with JOTA)

BBQ at Noon

General Meeting at 1330 hours;

Agenda:

- To receive correspondence and reports, etc. from the Committee
- To ratify payment of \$579.16 for Insurance premium
- To announce quorum required for General Meetings in future
- To hear suggestions from the Membership

Speaker: Douglas Birt ZL1BFS, Secretary of Hibiscus Coast Radio Society
“Unified submission to the Auckland Council Unitary Plan”

This is a must-attend topic on which the future of Amateur radio operations in greater Auckland depends. Let's fight inappropriate provisions.

DIRECTORY:

www.gsl.net/ZL1AA
ZL1AA@NZART.org.nz

Clubroom: 528-2039

Contacts: 524-9969 (Gwynne)

21- 0226-4981 (Steve)

Box 18-003, Glen Innes, Auckland, 1743.

400 St Johns Road, Kohimarama,

Google earth: 36.86973°S; 174.84386°E

ARRL Grid: RF73kr

ASB Bank Account: 12-3047-0076823-00

Nets Mondays 3.645 MHz

8 pm: Thursdays 145.775 MHz

Club: Saturdays 145.775 MHz

Skype: ZL1AA_NZ

Remote K3: ZL1AA.dyndns.org

From your President George ZL1TUJ



Auckland Council Unitary Plan:

By now, the Auckland Council Unitary Plan has been notified. In Clauses 23 to 36 of the section titled "Network Utilities and Energy" under the heading "Amateur Radio Configurations" is provision that amounts to nothing more than what was provided in the previous North Shore City Plan. Whereas these provisions might suit a casual VHF user, they fall short for satisfactory HF operation.

While not ideal, Tauranga's Amateurs have achieved better than most, however the Environment Court finally restricted their height to 20m from 26m.

Guest Speaker:

Accordingly, we have invited Douglas Birt ZL1BFS to speak to us after our General Meeting on 12th October. His message will be to exhort us to make a unified submission. Refer to last month's newsletter on this subject.

Working Bee:

Our thanks are due to the few Members who began to clean up the site where it is proposed to erect the Nally Fold-over Crank-up tower. More long grass has to be cut back and the debris removed. Other tasks that are still outstanding include the laying of a new waste water outlet (because the flow from the kitchen sink is slow).

Memorial Contest:

ZL1AA finished 6th out of 14 entries in the Phone only section, thanks to those Members who operated at the clubroom on a mid-winter week-end. We shall do it again next year and encourage younger Members to participate.

Raffle:

The Treasurer reports that the raffle for the 2012 ARRL Handbook achieved its objective of getting subscriptions paid at the beginning of the year. We intend to run another such raffle after the AGM in December. The odds of winning this raffle are better than any lottery..

AREC Exercises — Radio operators are required.

Pink Star Walks

Saturday 5th October - 5pm until 10pm

Location Auckland Domain & Parnell.

70cm capability would be desirable.

Names, telephone numbers & email addresses are required.

Civil Defence Workshop

7th October 2013

Start 7pm

Wesley Community Centre

740 Sandringham Road, Mt Roskill.

All AREC members & Radio amateurs are welcome. Please email your name to perma@extra.co.nz to reserve your place.

2013 Oceania DX Contest

PHONE Contest: 08:00 UTC Saturday **5 October** to 08:00 UTC Sunday 6 Oct 2013

CW Contest : 08:00 UTC Saturday **12 October** to 08:00 UTC Sunday 13 Oct 2013

THE AIM of the contest is to promote HF contacts with stations in the Oceania region (VK, ZL, Pacific Islands and other locations within the IARU "Worked All Continents" Oceania boundary). Rules are at www.oceaniadxcontest.com

Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc)

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Time / Date / Place: 1936 hours / Tuesday 1st October / Clubroom

Attendees: George ZL1TUJ, Steve ZL1FS, Wallace ZL1WAL, Gwynne ZL1AAR; Ray ZL1AJR, Japie ZL1JJN, Wes ZL3TE and Hon. Life Member ZL1BRC (visitor)

Apologies: Robert ZL2RED

Sustained ZL1WAL / ZL1AAR

Minutes of the previous Committee meeting on Tuesday 3rd September 2013 with correction to dates

- General Meeting 12th October (not 19th October)
- JOTA week-end 19th October (not Labour Day)
- Examination on 20th October (not 10th October)

Taken as read and approved ZL1TUJ / ZL3TE

Correspondence In:

- Newsletters: Franklin, North Shore (by post); Western, VHF Group, Hibiscus Coast (by e-mail).
- NZART Infoline – 2014 Conference to be held at Blenheim; YL activity week in December; Subs due
- NZART – Memorial Day Contest results: ZL1AA was 6th / 14 on phone; James ZL1JV (ZL1KNI) was 1st.
- Douglas Birt advocating unified submission (similar to Tauranga) to be made to Auckland Unitary Plan
- Wane Wilson – asking for ZL1TAX's email
- Wes – re QSL by K7UA to ZL1AA/C at Chatham Islands DXpedition in 1974
- Selwyn – Deferred formal appointment as Historian just now
- Selwyn – Criticism of topics discussed on Nets; security /alarm /gate / exam candidates
- DX Group, ZM90DX 1st October 2013 to 31st October 2014 on all bands 1.8 MHz to 1.2 GHz, all modes

Correspondence Out:

- Douglas Birt, ZL1BFS – invitation to attend next General Meeting to explain need for unified submission
- Wes – QSL Logs for Memorial day contest, QSL records for K7UA
- State Insurance – asking for 6 monthly billing

Received and Approved ZL1TUJ / ZL1WAL

Finance:

- The Treasurer presented the Finance report
- State Insurance has been paid but \$579.16 has not yet been approved at General Meeting

- Expenses requiring approval to pay:

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------|
| · Broadband | Orcon | \$75.00 | Direct Debit each month |
| · Lawns | R Higgins | \$36.80 | |
| · Padlock and concrete | Gwynne ZL1AAR | \$36.00 | |

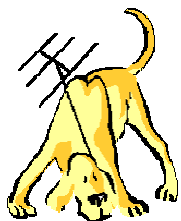
Received and Approved ZL1WAL / ZL3TE

- Funding applications
- Application to AREC should be in the form of an invoice for phone line cost (\$900) and budget projection for next year.
- Secretary to remind Auckland City about the previous tenant's obligation to reinstate the phone line.
- No other submissions for equipment have been received yet.

General business:

- **Progress Reports:**

- AREC:
 - Relationship with Civil Defence was explained. Our MOU with CD is not recognized now
 - Civil Defence Exercise at Wesley Centre, 740 Sandringham Road Monday 7th October 7pm
 - Pink Star walk in the Domain Saturday 5th October at 5 pm to 10 pm. Operators wanted.
- Working bee / Maintenance;
 - Sink out-flow – requirement to finish digging 4m trench and buy some pipe fittings Sunday
 - Possum – access hole not yet blocked.
 - Lights – provided by Brian ZL1UXB in exchange for some old radio equipment
- Clearing site for the tower – a start has been made but the weed eater is needed to finish it
- Remotely operated K3 station;-
 - RCFORB software has been loaded, configured for the simplest operation and tested OK
 - It is free and uses VOIP permitting many simultaneous client listeners on the Club HF net.
 - James may configure a second configuration to utilize more of the K3's features for DX.



The Fox hunting page

by Wallace ZL1WAL



JOTA on Saturday 19th October (not Labour week-end as I reported last month)

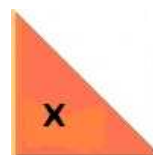
JOTA is a worldwide ham event, held annually in October for almost 40 years. It runs for 48 hours, thus Scouts and Guides may contact each other across the world.

Each year JOTA and IOTA is held at Camp Maynard, near Albany, a property given by Les and Joan Maynard to Scouting New Zealand and financed by grants from the ASB Trust and is run as a not-for-profit organization. It is very well appointed with kitchen, activity rooms and bunk rooms.

Scouts and Guides come from all over the Auckland Province, some to sleep overnight under canvas or in the bunk rooms. About 250 come to earn a Communications badge which is awarded on the completion of several communication activities. North Shore Branch 29 erects antennas, sets up radio stations, laptops with echo-link, morse testing, and other communication related activities, then supervises these activities with the assistance of Venturer Scouts. I have taken on the task of providing ARDF (fox hunting),



For these first time youngsters, it is important that they are successful at these tests. Fox hunting is hard enough without hiding the transmitter, say in the middle of a toi-toi bush. Therefore, each fox is identified with a prism-shaped flag that ought to be visible when within 10 metres of it. Each fox is 'hidden' around the edge of the camp area, so as to avoid having to bush-bash to find it.



The sight of a hound sniffing around the camp ground is an advertisement to others that this is a fun activity. From the balcony shown in the photo above, it is possible to keep an eye on the camp site, and offer help if it seems necessary.

International ARDF rules for 2m gear require that each of the five foxes take it in turns to transmit its call-sign (MOE, MOI, ...MO5) for one minute on a common frequency: 144.700 MHz. Thus one of the frustrations being experienced by the hounds, is that the fox being tracked goes silent for four minutes until its turn to resume transmitting. In contrast, the 80m gear transmits continuously but on different frequencies, 3.51, 3.52, ... 3.55 MHz tunable by the receiver. This is more satisfying for the hounds. Auckland branch intend to obtain kitsets for 80m sniffers (DF radios with a ferrite rod antenna) and provide construction courses for new hams to build them,

ZM90DX Special Event Operation Award

To celebrate 90 years of Kiwi DX and encourage operators from around the world to try out some new modes we have created the ZM90DX Special Event Operation Award

The amateur radio landscape has changed and evolved far beyond what the operators of 1923 could have imagined.

This award recognises operators who are able to operate on multiple bands and modes, as well as overcome the distances and unique propagation challenges that come with being at the bottom of the pacific.



To Qualify (the rules)...

To qualify for the Award you must accumulate a minimum of 90 points by working / hearing ZM90DX on various Bands and Modes.

Bands and modes of use include all amateur radio bands (WARC included) SSB, CW and Digital modes in accordance with the band plan. RTTY, PSK, JT65 etc count for digital.

Points are awarded on the following basis:

- 160m = 15 points
- 80m = 10 points
- 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m = 5 points
- 12m, 10m = 10 points
- 6m and up = 20 points

You may work multiple 'slots' to accumulate points for the award. i. e: four 80m SSB QSOs on four different dates counts as 40 points.

This award will be issued in four levels, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum as follows:

- **Bronze** for accumulating 90 points
- **Silver** for accumulating 150 Points
- **Gold** for accumulating 180 Points
- **Platinum** for achieving GOLD AND working ZM90DX on 9 Bands

All contacts must be two way communications. Repeater or Internet assisted QSOs; for example Echolink or IRLP contacts do not count towards the award.

The award is open to SWLs also. SWL logs must contain QSO data consisting of Call, Date, Time and Mode of the station working ZM90DX.

The Award will be issued in PDF format only, and is free of charge.

ENSURE your logging software logs ZM90DX correctly as ZL and NOT ZL9, Auckland / Campbell Islands To update the Country File for your logging software please visit: <http://www.country-files.com/>.

Claiming your award...

Email your log extract to awards@zm90dx.com

Ensure that you include with your email your full name and callsign!

All Award claims should be finalized by April 30, 2014.

(Once we're under way we will have a log search facility available to check you're in the log.)



Minutes 1st October (Continued)

- **Distribution of QSL cards:**
It was decided to advise Members who have cards in the racks, and warn them that these cards will be binned after 90 days if they are not picked up from the clubroom.
Their alternative is to send several SAEs to Musick Point Radio Society for them to post out.
- **Future events:**
 - Oceana Contest Phone on 5th October at 0800 UTC; CW on 12th October; ZL1AA entry?
 - Civil Defence workshop Monday 7th October at Wesley Centre
 - Jumbo Bowls 9th October 1930 hours at King George V Coronation Hall, Albany
 - General Meeting 12th October. Speaker is Douglas Birt ZL1BFS about submission on Antennas.
 - JOTA 19th October, Camp Maynard, Albany – Fox hunt will be convened by ZL1AA
 - Examination 20th October at 1300 hours
- **Constitution:** Quorum for General Meetings
Resolved that quorum shall be four Members provided that two are Officers.
Carried, but one abstention ZL1WAL/ ZL1TUJ
- **Beam:**
After high winds last week-end, a fault has been found. The pole will be stepped on Sunday 6th October
- **The Nally tower:**
Its original Hex beam was sold to Wallace who offered it back. His offer was declined.
Antenna choices now are:
 - Hy-gain Junior ex Bill Still ZL1UT
 - Quad provided by Gwynne ZL1AAR
 - 50 MHz provided that no cost is incurred.Additional components – none identified yet
Schedule for erecting it is not yet decided.
- **Alarm Code is to be changed:** George will inform key holders verbally.
- **Raffle:** Decided That Gwynne should order the 2014 ARRL Handbook for Clubroom reference.
The 2013 version will be raffled so as to attract early payment of subscriptions for next year.

Meeting closed at 2155 hours

The following is a complete copy of the article in Amateur Radio Newsline 1885 of 27 September 2013

RADIO FROM SPACE: SCIENTISTS ADMIT SOLAR CYCLE 24 LOW IS PUZZLING

Predictions that 2013 would see an upsurge in solar activity and geomagnetic storms have proved to be a false alarm. Instead, the current peak in solar cycle 24 is among the weakest for a century. Amateur Radio Newsline's Stephan Kinford, N8WB, takes a look at what scientists are saying:--

Subdued solar activity has prompted controversial comparisons with the Maunder Minimum. The Maunder Minimum, also known as the prolonged sunspot minimum, is the name used for the period starting in about 1645 and continuing to about 1715 when sunspots became exceedingly rare, as noted by solar observers of the time. These minimums supposedly coincided with the coldest period in the last millennium.

But Giuliana DeToma, a solar scientist at the High Altitude Observatory in Colorado says that the unusually low number of sunspots in recent years is not an indication that we are going into a Maunder Minimum, but added that researchers do not know how or why the Maunder Minimum started. As such, they really cannot predict the next one.

Other solar experts think the downturn is linked a different phenomenon called the Gleissberg cycle. The Gleissberg cycle, named after Wolfgang Gleissberg, is thought to be an amplitude modulation of the 11-year Schwabe Cycle which predicts a period of weaker solar activity every century or so. If that turns out to be true, the sun could remain unusually quiet through the middle of the 2020s. However, as scientists still do not fully understand why the Gleissberg cycle takes place, the evidence is, at best, inconclusive.

de Selwyn Ross ZL1BRC