



New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters

ZL1AA - AUCKLAND BRANCH 02

SEPTEMBER

2015



General meeting



SATURDAY SEPT. 19 @ 13:30

**Steve, ZL1FS Will Present a Video on
Dick Smith, VK2DIK and his Helicopter Trip**

Club Room will be open at 10:30 AM

BBQ @ 1200

LEARNING MORSE CODE

Some DX Cluster web pages show increasing trends to CW and similar narrow band transmission modes in the face of declining solar activity. Here is another method of learning Morse Code which is very user friendly for all speeds and all rates of learning ability, subject to the usual caution not to start below about 10 WPM. <http://morsecode.scphillips.com/translator.html>

You can use that link or go to the web page which has the popular name in Google of Morse Code Translator. Please do not be put off by that name or the appearance of that Home Page but take time to explore all the buttons.

Auckland Branch, and other Branches too, can benefit by having more competent CW operators for Field Day and other Contest activities. If you start now you will succeed and will be welcome as a ZL CW operator on many DX bands at modest power levels. CW gets through when SSB cannot.

73, ZL1BRC

NOTICE: NETS MOVED TO WEDNESDAY

ZL1AA
Auckland Branch 02
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Auckland 1743

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Club Officers

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021 0226-4981

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ZL3TE@dxer.com
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ZL1AA Information:

Branch 02 Clubroom is located at
400 St Johns Road
Kohimarama, Auckland
(Off the beaten track / 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:
Wednesday:
145.775 MHz @ 1930 Ray, ZL1AJR NCO
Wednesday:
3.645 MHz @ 2000 Ray, ZL1AJR NCO

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

Branch Contacts:

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(09)-528-1177
Steve Miller, ZL1FS
021 0226-4981

Branch Examiners:

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Station Trustees:

George Marr, ZL1TUJ
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 31st March 2014)
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 December to 30 November
- ❖ 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.

Auckland Unitary Plan Update

The Submission Status

31 August 2015

There will be no further news about the Auckland Unitary Plan until after the Definitions Hearing on 3 September 2015.

Other Places

Just as a matter of interest, we had a good success with the Waipa District Plan during the month. We have achieved an even better outcome at Waipa than we achieved at Tauranga and Hamilton.

The Christchurch Plan revision is well under way. Indications are that there might be a negotiated agreement, without the need to go to Hearings. Here's hoping.

Three more Plan Reviews are starting, at Waikato, Kapiti and South Taranaki

Douglas Birt ZL1BFS
NZART Local Government Liaison Officer
kdbirt@gisborne.net.nz
Mobile 027 492 5189

Ham-Cyclist Completes US Leg of His Trip Around the Globe

Cyclist Thomas Andersen, OZ1AA/K9DXX, completed his 6 week ride up the US East Coast on August 29 and now is in the Canadian Maritimes, the 38th country he has visited beginning his "Cycling the Globe" adventure in Copenhagen 5 years ago. Andersen already has put more than 26,000 miles on his bicycle — more than the distance around the equator. Along the way, he has been availing himself of ham radio hospitality. On the US leg, which he began in Key West, Florida, he often stayed with fellow radio amateurs and made many new US friends on his trip. "From the southernmost point in Key West, Florida to the easternmost point in Lubec, Maine — what an incredible ride through the US!" Andersen posted on his Facebook page. "A heartfelt thank you to all who helped along the way. The hospitality has been unlike anything else I experienced on this trip."

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Thomas was in Auckland, March 2013. Jackie, ZL3CW, Hosted a dinner at his QTH for Thomas, and a small group of Hams. We had the opportunity to meet with him and hear of his amazing journey.

You can read about Thomas' adventure on his web page: <http://www.cyclingtheglobe.com>

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>

Sep 12-19

- WAE DX Contest, SSB: Sep 12 / 13
- Kulikovo Polye Contest: Sep 12
- FSARL Field Day Contest: Sep 12 / 13
- SKCC Weekend Sprintathon: Sep 12 / 13
- Arkansas QSO Party: Sep 12 / 13
- Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW: Sep 19 / 20

Sep 19-28

- BARTG Sprint 75: Sep 20
- Run for the Bacon QRP Contest: Sep 21
- RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW: Sep 24
- **CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY: Sep 26 / 27**
- Maine QSO Party: Sep 26 / 27
- Peanut Power QRP Sprint: Sep 27

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 General Club Meeting

Date / Time / Place: Saturday 18th July 2015 1330 hours / Clubroom

Attendees: Steve ZL1FS presiding, Wallace ZL1WAL, Ray ZL1AJR, Logan ZL1LMN, Japie ZL1JJN, George ZL1TUJ, Bob ZL1AFU, Selwyn ZL1BRC, Simon ZL1SWW, Oliver ZL1AAW, Lyndon ZL3DWF, Warren ZL1AIX, Jeff ZL1TOU, Brian ZL1UXB and his two sons; and guest speakers Murray Greenman ZL1BPU and Harry Pompe ZL1BK - as per the Attendance book.

Apologies: Robert ZL2RED, Gwynne ZL1AAR, Wes ZL3TE, Ian ZL2ATD. Sustained ZL1WAL / ZL1LMN

Minutes:

- General meeting on Saturday 16th May 2015 Taken as read and approved ZL1TUJ / ZL1WAL

Finance:

- The Finance report as presented at the Committee Meeting on 7th July was tabled.
- Funds ear-marked for the Auckland Council Unitary Plan fighting fund, will soon be drawn down. Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1JJN

Reports:

- Auckland Council has prepared a Licence to Occupy to for us to sign. We are redrafting some of its clauses so that it more closely matches the terms of the agreement drawn up in 1970 when we gifted this building to Civil Defence in consideration for us to hold our meetings and house our transmitters in it. The Committee is disposed to pay for electricity. We expect that we shall have to negotiate other standard clauses used by Auckland Council because we believe that they should not apply to us.
- Steve outlined his plans to improve Branch nets. He polled for a preferred midweek night for both nets. He would like to see the role of Net-master shared.
- The purpose of the remotely controlled station is to assist those Members who have QRM in their vicinity. While the K3 is awaiting a replacement IO board, Ray has lent his Kenwood TS480HX. It is set on 3.645 MHz for listening only. It cannot be allowed to transmit because it does not have an internal tuner.
- A special effort is being made to invite good speakers so as to improve attendance at these General Meetings. We are pleased to have Murray Greenman ZL1BPU with us today.
- Gary Bold ZL1AN will address us in August.
- To a complaint about the short notice given for this meeting, it was explained that July is one of the few months in the calendar that has little time between 1st Tuesday (7th July) and 3rd Saturday (18th July). In this interval the Newsletter Editor was overseas, and had much work to catch up on his return. He asked that an interim notice should be sent out. The notice of meeting and the newsletter were distributed, albeit 2 days and 1 day before this meeting.

Presentation:

- Steve presented a certificate to Harry Pompe ZL1BK, being the winner of the Inter-Branch ARDF competition held in March this year. This was followed by acclamation by Members.

The meeting closed at 13:45 hours – the shortest meeting yet.

This meeting was preceded by a BBQ, thanks to Mrs Christine Watson for cooking and serving.

Address:

- Murray Greenman ZL1BPU gave an in-depth description of FSQ (Fast Simple QSO) for chat mode, specified by him, to be fault tolerant and more efficient than other digital modes. The programs were written by Con Wassilieff ZL2AFP as open source and a version is available from FLDIGI to run on Linux and Mac platforms. He demonstrated most of its features including the transmission of images. Questions from the floor kept Murray going for a further ½ hour and concluded at 1530 hours with thanks by acclamation.
- Harry Pompe ZL1BK showed a short video of recent satellite developments relaying signals from EPRBs back to earth within 50 seconds. His outdoors demonstration was frustrated by the close proximity of a cell phone tower.
- Simon ZL1SWW had an update to his previous address.

Concluded at 16:00 hours.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN VIDEOS

It was planned to show a DVD on this topic at our June general meeting but that did not happen. From the Internet here are links to two excellent videos on this topic. The URLs are:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBNmpEk91ml> - 55 minutes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52YOKT_O10U - 1 hour 55 minutes

Both are from the same stable and are very thorough documentaries.

73, ZL1BRC

Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc.)

Minutes of August Committee Meeting

Date / Time / Place: Tuesday 4th August 1930 hours / Clubroom

Attendees: Steve ZL1FS presiding, Wallace ZL1WAL, Wes ZL3TE, Japie ZL1JJN, Logan ZL1LMN and Mrs Nicoll.

Apologies: Gwynne ZL1AAR, George ZL1TUJ.

Sustained ZL1FS / ZL3TE

Minutes of the previous Committee meeting on Tuesday 7th July 2015 as reported in the July Newsletter are subject to the transposition of the dates of that meeting and the reference to approving the minutes of the previous meeting on 2nd June 2015

Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1FS

Correspondence In:

- Newsletters: Franklin, North Shore Suburban (by post); Hibiscus Coast; Auck VHF Group (by e-mail)
- Branch reflector of Newsletters from North Canterbury, Hasting / Napier, Rotorua, Hamilton.
- Break-in magazine.
- NZART President re visit to award Young Amateur of the Year.
- NZART President setting date for his visit - 17th October.
- Douglas Birt: Update of Auckland Council Unitary Plan submission.
- Registrar of Incorporated Societies – approval of change to our Constitution.

Correspondence Out:

- NZART-President re presentation of Young Amateur of the Year award.
 - Auckland Council –enclosing a redrawn map of the section to be licenced for our occupation.
 - Simon ZL1SWW re satellite dishes available from Tamaki campus.
 - North Shore Branch asking for a sked and calling frequencies for the scouts.
 - Registrar Incorporated Societies – Change to constitution.
- Arising: Mrs Nicholl volunteered to retype the Constitution so as to embody all the changes made to it and result in an electronic version suitable for distribution to Members.

Received and approved ZL1LMN / ZL3TE

Finance:

- Finance Report was tabled.
- Expenses requiring approval:
 - o Bins used for crockery \$30.00
 - o BBQ \$14.55
 - o USB connector \$34.44 \$79.00 Steve ZL1FS
- Insurance: Wallace read an e-mail from State Insurance saying that it is illegal to insure a building that is not owned by the insurer. Their "Businesspack" premium includes Building, Contents and Stock and is already billed at its minimum (\$579.16). Of this, the breakdown of premium for Building only is \$398.26, but it cannot be deducted. Wallace is to seek an alternative insurer for just Contents and stock.

Approved ZL1WAL / ZL3TE

Approved ZL1WAL / ZL3TE

General Business:

- Reports:
- AREC: None
- Last General Meeting was most successful in attracting a good attendance. It was a fun day.
- Visitors: Graham Hay ZL1GH, Simon Coles and a VK2.
- Exams:
 - o Eban Bruyns will visit and join our Branch (he says). He intends to attend the North Shore class.
 - o Simon Coles wants to get his licence.
- QSL cards: Wes reported his progress having uploaded 7,526 entries from our paper logs to LoTW. Steve reported that he checks that the current logs are being properly kept by our operators. Action is required for cards arriving by post that have been found to be lying around the clubroom.
- Nets: A poll of preferred nights was taken at the last General Meeting. Wednesday is popular.
- Maintenance
- Meter reading: From readings taken for nine months, the annual charge is projected to amount to \$400.
- Power outlets on the South side of building – in progress
- Painting – North wall. Half has been painted by Wallace. Paint skirting of the building before planting Steve's Yucca.
- Level floor – to be scheduled
- Corner pile supporting under-floor access door – to be scheduled.
- ISP: Cancelled with Orcon (\$78). Ordered from Compass - Naked 25 Gb for \$55 / month. (Our usage is < 6 Gb.)
- Tower: Fit rotator and quad antenna – task to be assigned and scheduled. Gwynne indicated he would like to be involved when he gets back next month.

(August Committee Minutes Continued on page 6)

- There is also a micro controller used to direct the rotor's position. It interfaces with a logging program.
- Remotely operated station: The K3 has been checked and found to be OK.
- Batteries for foxes to be used by North Shore for JOTA. Logan will check / recharge them by early October.
- **Future Events:**
- **Speakers:**
 - o 15th August Gary Bold – Antennas for small lots subject to confirmation. Steve to advise Wes.
 - o 19th September – to be arranged by Steve
 - o 17th October – Stuart Watchman - Interisland HVDC link.
 - o 17th – 18th October Jota. We shall operate HF and VHF before noon and after 3pm.
- The following suggestions need to be scheduled:
 - o Meshnet by Hannes ZL1LD or Robert ZL2FLY
 - o Video about balloon trip by Dick Smith (as presented to recent WIA conference).
- **Licence to occupy:**
- A rewrite of some clauses is expected from Peter Nicoll to more closely match our 1970 agreement with Civil Defence.
- Meanwhile Wallace has informed Ian Campbell of a revision to the boundary of the area to be licenced.
- It is expected of the terms need to be negotiated: Fee; Period; Outgoings; Insurance; Upkeep; Signage.
- Steve and Wallace are to seek legal advice and representation that we can afford. John Martin ZL1GWE will be also be asked.

Meeting closed at 2110 hours with supper provided by Mrs Nicoll. Tuesday 2nd June 1930 hours / Clubroom

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

Date / Time / Place: Saturday 15th August 2015 1330 hours / Clubroom

Attendees: Steve ZL1FS presiding, Wallace ZL1WAL, Ray ZL1AJR, Logan ZL1LMN, , Bob ZL1AFU, Selwyn ZL1BRC, Oliver ZL1AAW, Ken ZL1KJL, Jeff ZL1TOU, Graham Hay ZL1GH, Ian Falgar and guest speaker Gary Bold ZL1AN. - as per the Attendance Book.

Apologies: Robert ZL2RED, Gwynne ZL1AAR, Ian ZL2ATD. George ZL1TUJ Sustained ZL1FS / ZL1LMN

Minutes:

- General meeting on Saturday 18th July 2015
These were read out but approval was not sought because they had not been circulated.

Finance:

- The Finance report as presented at the Committee Meeting on 7th August was tabled.
- Funds ear-marked for the Auckland Council Unitary Plan fighting fund, will soon be drawn down.
Approved ZL1WAL / ZL1FS

Correspondence:

- We have had correspondence with Stuart Watchman ZL2TW, President of NZART, who will visit this Branch on Saturday 17th October to make a presentation to Logan Nicoll ZL1LMN as Young Amateur of the Year (neglected at Conference this year), and to be our guest speaker.
- We are told by State Insurance that it is illegal for us to insure this clubroom (because we gifted it to Auckland City Council in 1970).

Reports:

- No newsletter has been distributed this month, there being little time between 1st Tuesday (7th August) and 3rd Saturday (15th August).
- This means that the Minutes of the Committee Meeting this month have not been published yet.
- This week Steve, Wallace and Peter Nicoll attended a meeting with Auckland Council Property Limited to ask them to rewrite a Licence to Occupy that will more closely match the agreement that was written in 1970. We gave them the electricity readings taken this year and we agreed to pay, notwithstanding that the 1970 agreement stated that Council provides utilities.
- Steve outlined his plans to improve Branch nets. Last month he polled for a preferred midweek night. Wednesday will be announced in the newsletter. He would like to see the role of Net-master shared.
- The K3 is working again so the remotely controlled station is on the air for financial Members' use. A package of useful operating tips (written by Selwyn) is available for applicants.
- A special effort is being made to invite good speakers so as to improve attendance at these General Meetings. Last month we had Murray Greenman ZL1BPU talking about QSF.

(August General Meeting Minutes Continued on page 7)

Today we have Gary Bold, ZL1AN to talk to us about antennas for small lots.

Other Business: None.

Meeting closed at 1445 hours.

A BBQ lunch was prepared by Oliver ZL1AAW and served at noon,

Address: Gary Bold ZL1AN took the stage at 1345 hours.

Auckland Branch 02, NZART (Inc.) Minutes of September Committee Meeting

Date / Time / Place: Tuesday 1st September 1940 hours / Clubroom

Attendees: Steve ZL1FS presiding, Wallace ZL1WAL, Japie ZL1JJN, Ray ZL1AJR, and Logan ZL1LMN

Apologies: Wes ZL3TE, George ZL1TUJ, Gwynne ZL1AAR

Sustained ZL1WAL, ZL1JJN

Minutes: of the previous Committee meeting on Tuesday 4th August 2015:

Not available for approval.

Correspondence In:

- Newsletters: Franklin, North Shore Suburban (by post); Hibiscus Coast; Auck VHF Group (by e-mail)
- Branch reflector of Newsletters from North Canterbury, Hasting / Napier, Rotorua, Hamilton, Gippsland.
- Registrar Incorporated Societies – Change to constitution approved.
- Peter Nicoll: Meeting with Auckland Council Property Limited, and his summation afterwards.
- NZART-HQ – Public Liability policy abandoned because only 5 (initially 19) Branches want it.
- Selwyn: Suggestion that programs in the general purpose computer need to be deleted; others to be replaced.
- Selwyn: suggestion to change constitution about its dissolution provisions to stipulate only other Branches.
- Selwyn: Updated instructions for operating the Remotely Controlled Station.
- Tom Glendenning ZL1AMZ: resignation.

Correspondence Out:

- Auckland Council Property Limited– redraft of Licence to Occupy
- NZART-HQ: Progress with Public Liability policy?
- AON Insurance brokers: Request for quotation for Public Liability Insurance and Contents Insurance cover.

Received and approved ZL1JJN/ ZL1LMN

Finance:

- Finance Report was presented:
- The Insurance policy with State will be allowed to lapse. A new Contents policy will be sought.

Approved ZL1WAL ZL1FS

General Business:

- **Reports:**
- **AREC:** Japie ZL1JJN and Martha ZL1MMJ provided comms at the Gold Rush car rally in Coromandel on 22 Aug.
- Last General Meeting: Gary Bold spoke about “Astronomy” (not “Antennas on small lots” as was advertised).
- **Visitors:** Keith Harris VK2KHP has joined the Branch
- **Exams:**
 - o Steve was an instructor (radio theory) at North Shore’s block course
 - o Our Member, Soren Low passed; his call sign is ZL1SKL.
- **Nets:** Wednesdays will commence this week. Steve will advise any Thursday call-ins about the change.
- **Maintenance**
- Meter reading 47457.2 (lower than forecast).
- Power outlets on south side of building are not yet working.
- Painting – North wall is nearly finished - one more window to do. (Gwynne will donate grey paint for the base.)
- Level floor – to be scheduled.
- Corner pile supporting under-floor access door – to be scheduled.
- Clean up the clubroom. Components beneath the notice board will be disposed of in early October.
- Members may help themselves.
- Crockery has been put in bins beneath the work bench in the kitchen.
- The Librarian will be asked to dispose of duplicate magazines that have stockpiled.
- Computers / network / phone line / Remotely controlled station:
- Cancelled Orcon; phone returned. Compass Naked broadband is connected. Logan has a wifi modem for it.

(September Committee Meeting Minutes Continued on page 8)

- Logan is servicing the PC at HF1.
 - Copy URLs of Selwyn's favourites for publication in the newsletter.
 - Policy rules for the Remote station will be published.
 - Helpful operating tips [Selwyn] will be edited and issued by Logan to applicants for tuning privileges. Intending users need to create an account with RCForb, before requesting.
 - Japie will arrange to dispose of the two copiers if there are no takers from a TradeMe "no reserve" advertisement.
 - **Antennas:**
 - **Tower:** Assemble rotator and quad antenna – task to be scheduled. Gwynne has indicated his interest to help.
 - **Licence to occupy:**
 - Report about meeting with Auckland Council Property Ltd, (ACPL) was circulated. A revised draft was sent to ACPL to assist them with rewriting it to more closely match our 1970 original agreement with Civil Defence.
 - Health & Safety manual: Wallace has drafted an initial version which needs to include the provisions already documented in the folder in the kitchen.
 - Public Liability policy which NZART-HQ negotiated with AON was abandoned. A request for a quote is pending, estimated to cost \$500. A Contents policy will be sought also.
 - The above negotiations will be reported to a General Meeting in due course after they are finalised.
 - **Future Events:**
 - **Speakers:**
 - o 19th September – Steve will obtain the video about balloon trip by Dick Smith (as presented to recent WIA conference). The day should be largely devoted to finishing maintenance and tidying the clubroom.
 - o 17th October – Stuart Watchman - Interisland HVDC link. He will make a presentation to Logan as Young Amateur Year.
 - o JOTA 17th 18th October:
 - Logan is charging the batteries for the 2m foxes.
 - We shall be on the air both before and after our General meeting and Presentation. The North Shore Branch expects 500 attendees, many of who will want to QSO.
 - On Sunday some Members will go with Stuart Watchman to Camp Maynard on Sunday.
 - **Contests:**
 - o Oceania DX (Oct);
 - o SOTA - summits on the air: SOTA was a topic presented at the NZART Conference in June. This is an award activity that encourages "Activators" to register and climb their district summits (> 150m), and to make QSOs to "Chasers" and short wave listeners (SWL). See www.SOTA.org.UK for more detail.
 - **Summits in Auckland are:**

• Rangitoto Island	260m	May be allowed for HuMPS or WOTA
• Mt Eden	196m	Mt Hobson 143m Mt Wellington 135m
• One tree hill	182m	Mt Albert 135m Mangere Mtn 106m

Steve will liaise with Warren Harris ZL2WKH who may be managing the SOTA association for New Zealand.
 - **Newsletter:** No issue in August.
 - o Wallace will assist Steve with writing "President says" column to promote activities for October.
 - **Constitution:**
 - o No change is deemed necessary to the dissolution provision. It states: "disposition of the funds and property to ... with objects similar to those of the Branch".
 - o Thanks were made to Mrs Nicholls who had typed an electronic version with updates incorporated. It will be made available to financial Members.
- The meeting closed at 21:05 with supper prepared by Ray and provided by Mrs Nicoll.

SOTA



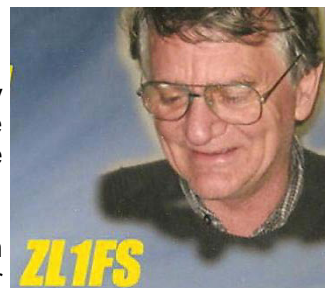
Summits on the Air (SOTA) is an award scheme for radio amateurs and shortwave listeners that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. SOTA has been carefully designed to make participation possible for everyone - this is not just for mountaineers!

There are awards for activators (those who ascend to the summits) and chasers (who either operate from home, a local hilltop or are even Activators on other summits).

<http://www.sota.org.uk>

From The Chair ...

Guest speakers: We were privileged to have had Murray Greenman ZL1BPU and Gary Bold ZL1AN, both excellent speakers, visit us at previous meetings. On 17th October we shall be hosting the newly elected President of NZART, Stuart Watchman, ZL2TW. He will speak to us about the HV inter-island cable.



JOTA: is held at Camp Maynard near Albany, also on 17th and 18th October. North Shore branch expects 500 scouts, guides and keas to attend. They ask that our Members make an effort to be listening out for their CQs so that these youngsters, striving to get their Communication badges, have a good QSO experience.

Clubroom tidy up: In preparation for Stuart's visit we need to clear out much of the junk that has accumulated in the clubroom. Members are encouraged to rat round and help themselves to any components that are under the notice board. Whatever is remaining after Tuesday 6th October will be disposed of. There is also a range of old but working test equipment for which no reasonable offer will be refused. On 19th September, after cleaning up, a BBQ, and brief general meeting will be held to keep you informed. We will show a video about Dick Smith's helicopter trip that was a hit at the WIA conference. There is much to do, e.g. painting the base of the building grey, courtesy of Gwynne.

Young Amateur of the year: Stuart's first duty will be to make a presentation to our Member, Logan Nicoll ZL1LMN. Somehow our nomination at the end of 2014, slipped through the cracks at Council level, which meant that Logan did not receive the award while he attended the Conference in Hamilton. This day will be our show piece, so a good attendance by young and older Members is expected please. Logan's mother Carolyn has started baking she says.

Licence to Occupy: You will see in the minutes of meetings of your Committee, reference to the negotiations that we are having with Auckland Council Property Limited (ACPL), anxious to formalize our tenure at 400 St Johns Road. To that end, we are lifting our game on regulatory matters such as Health and Safety which has been in the news lately. Other Branches are experiencing the same. Accordingly, Members will be required to sign off that they have read the manuals that we are writing for their protection. In addition we are taking out Public Liability Insurance to cover any damage that we may cause while pursuing our hobby, whether at the clubroom or in some public place. In this context, financial membership becomes important so that you are covered.

Nets: After a poll of Members at a recent General Meeting, there was a small majority who preferred that the VHF and HF nets are run on Wednesdays. Therefore we shall give Wednesdays a try, in the hope that more check-ins are heard from a wider range of our Members. The times are:

1930 hours for VHF on 145.775 MHz
2000 hours for HF on 3.645 MHz

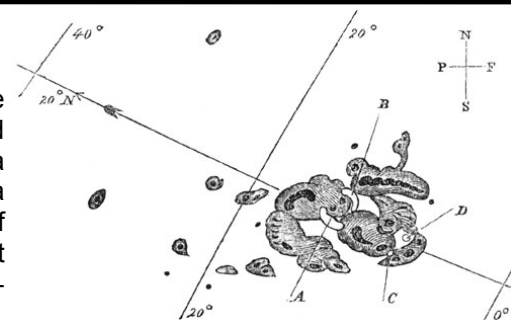
Remote Station: Any NZ resident financial Member of this Branch may apply to operate the Elecraft K3 on 80 and 40 metres. When first we switched it on there were nearly 200 requests from overseas Amateurs, many wanting to join our Branch. These have been denied under the present NZ Communications law. With the encroachment of plasma TV and other interfering devices, this station provides sensitive reception. On Wednesdays, when the Branch net is running, any number of people may be logged in and take their turn to transmit. First, Google and download RCForb Client and register with your call sign and password. Your request will be answered with operating tips sent to you (having been developed while experimenting with this service). You may schedule half hour blocks through the "Memo" window. No contesting. Please observe the Code of Conduct guidelines.

Oceania DX: The phone contest starts on Saturday 3rd October at 0800 UTC for 24 hours. CW is the following Saturday 10th October. The world will have their Yagis beaming towards us.

The Carrington Event - 156 years ago

The 2nd of Sept. was the anniversary of an historic solar storm, the "Carrington Event." On Sept. 2, 1859, a CME struck Earth's magnetic field with such power that telegraph stations caught fire and people in Cuba read their morning newspapers by the red light of the aurora borealis. If a similar storm struck our planet today, it might cause trillions of dollars of damage to society's high-tech infrastructure. Could the Carrington Event happen again? It almost did just a few years ago. Extreme solar storms--past, present and future, are highlighted in this edition of:

<http://spaceweather.com/archive.php?view=1&day=02&month=09&year=2015>



Sunspots of September 1, 1859, as sketched by Richard Carrington.

“Hamming” it up for 90 Years!

Charles “Charlie” Hellman W2RP Licensed since 1925

Presented with Historic 90th Anniversary Award

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY (August 31, 2015) Today, the Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc. (QCWA)—an international organization of amateur radio operators---presented a 90 Year Licensed Certificate Award (Serial #1) to Charles “Charlie” Hellman W2RP. Mr. Hellman is 105 years of age and is the oldest living amateur radio operator in the United States and possibly the world. Charlie was licensed in 1925 as a 15 year-old, and joined QCWA in 1975 and is also a member of local QCWA Chapter 181 (Hudson Valley). QCWA Life Member # 9731.



On hand to present the certificate, and represent QCWA President Ken Oelke VE6AFO and the membership were: Treasurer Charles Tropp N2SO, Directors Carole Perry WB2MGP and Pete Varounis NL7XM; along with QCWA Chapter 181 Secretary Mike Sturm, K2AE. Also on hand for the ceremony was Don Finkel, WA2OQM. The certificate reads: “The Quarter Century Wireless Association presents this 90th Anniversary Award to its Distinguished Member Charles “Charlie” Hellman, W2RP to commemorate Ninety Years of Service as a licensed Radio Amateur.”

In addition to the certificate, Charlie was also presented with a letter from QCWA president Ken Oelke VE6AFO which reads in part, “I would also like to say how proud I am that you have kept active for these many years, and to proudly celebrate what many will not be able to achieve in their entire lifetime. Congratulations to you on 90 years as a licensed radio amateur, and may you enjoy many more in amateur radio!”

The information pertaining to Charlie was discovered when the QCWA webmaster, Bob Roske NØUF, was updating member files and discovered that Charlie was still living in New York and was certainly the oldest living member of QCWA. In recognition of his achievement the QCWA Board of Directors quickly voted to award Charlie the 90 year certificate, a first for the organization.

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About QCWA

The Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) is a non-commercial international association of radio amateurs organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication and experimentation for the establishment and advancement of the radio art and public welfare. QCWA was founded December 5, 1947. In order to qualify for membership one must demonstrate proof of having been first licensed as an Amateur Radio operator at least 25 years prior to application for membership and must be currently licensed.



L-R Don, WA2OQM; Charles, N2SO; Pete, NL7XM, Charlie, W2RP(seated) and Carole, WB2MGP
Photo: Mike, KA2E