



Committee

President: Mike Jane ZL1UOM

Vice President: Gary Landon ZL1WGL

Secretary: Tom McDonald ZL1TO Ph. 09 238 858

with: Ted Doell ZL1BQA, Durlene Griffin ZL1ULK, Peter Henderson ZL1PJH and David McNeill ZL1DW.

Club examiners: Ian ZL1PZ and Tom ZL1TO.

Web page: www.qsl.net/zl1sa/

MEETINGS: The club meets on the third Tuesday each month, in the clubrooms, Stadium Drive Pukekohe, 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome.

The committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month (excepting January) at 7.30 pm in the clubrooms.

Subscriptions \$20.00, family \$30.00.

Nets every Sunday at 9.00 am on 3.700 MHz (controller ZL1UOM) and 9.30 am on the 146.900 MHz repeater (controller ZL1PZ). 2 metre frequencies are 145.775 MHz, then 146.625 MHz, and 146.900 simplex if repeaters off air.

Newsletter: Editor Tom ZL1TO tom.mcdonald@xtra.co.nz

A copy is sent to members and clubs in the Auckland area. Sent free of obligation by e-mail to anyone interested.

Lockdown for Covid-19 pandemic

This newsletter is being published as we near the end of a four week lockdown in 'Level 4' which is part of a declared state of emergency. All people except those in the emergency services or supplying vital supplies have been limited to our home "bubble".

In the amateur community that has meant no face-to-face meetings. However our radio has kept us in touch with each other. In particular a daily welfare net on Bombay 690 repeater has been very well patronized, with up to 20 check-ins at 8.30 am each morning (except Sunday).



Club Notice Board

General meeting, Tuesday 21 April

The face to face meeting is cancelled.

In its place members are encouraged to check in at 7.30 pm on the Bombay 690 repeater. If all goes well we will transfer to the STSP repeater 146.825 MHz which is temporarily stationed high on Ponga Road, Papakura. The agenda, with items of information that are usually shown on the TV screen in the clubhouse, will be emailed to members prior to the meeting.

Then, for those able to access the Zoom teleconference system we will conclude with a session on Zoom starting at around 7.45 pm. The meeting ID number and password will be on the emailed agenda. It does not matter if your computer does not have a video camera or an inbuilt microphone. You can be admitted to the "room" as an observer.

The whole idea is to extend the communication ability of each one of us.

Welfare net

Throughout the Covid-19 lockdown a daily (except Sunday) welfare net is being held on a southern 2 m repeater. Initially we have used the Bombay 690 repeater, but this may well change to the 146.825 MHz short term purpose repeater, located on Ponga Road, Papakura. Check in starts at 8.30 am

Morse code training

This is another initiative by Papakura Radio club. David ZL1DK has been working through the training program that was developed by Gary ZL1AN. There are daily sessions on 3.755 MHz (except Wednesday) at 7.30 pm. Several Franklin members have been attending.

Unite
against
COVID-19



Minutes of Franklin Amateur Radio Club (Inc) General Meeting held in the Clubrooms Stadium Drive Pukekohe, 17 March 2020.

Chairman Mike ZL1UOM opened the meeting at 1934 hours.

Attendance: ZL1UOM, ZL1TO ZL1BQA, ZL1PJH, ZL1WGL, ZL1DW, ZL1ULK, ZL1MFL, ZL1PZ, ZL1LL, ZL1TZP, ZL1BBZ.

Apologies: ZL1GAC, ZL1ERI

Minutes: of the February meeting were approved as a true record.

Correspondence:

Newsletters as in March QUA.

To Franklin Local Board re preference for permanent fence, and we will be attending forum 17 March.

Report on correspondence received. ZL1UOM / ZL1BQA

Finance.

Expenditure: Clubhouse paint job – Invoice \$1825 comprising \$1350 labour plus \$475 for 2½ pails of paint (2 of Double Concrete and ½ of Half Stack at \$190 per 10 litre pail).

The finance report was received and account passed for payment. ZL1BQA / ZL1DW

Reports

HF Field Days: An excellent weekend. ZL1PZ stayed about 3 hours. ZL1WGL did not need to do any of the night

shifts – but did do the morning. Antennas worked well. Did not get bugged out in the evening. Antennas were bang on. Heavy rain during erection of antennas.

AREC: Bombay fun run on Sunday 15 March. Members attending were ZL1PJH, ZL1ULK, ZL1PZ, ZL1BBZ, ZL1MFL, ZL1DW. Approximately 160 runners. Bombay 690 and 147.575 MHz. Mike ZL1MFL commented that the radio was used only twice, to advise runners had gone past his position. One runner had run through the 15 km turn and subsequently did a half marathon.

St Patrick Parade 14 March in the central city. ZL1TO and ZL1LL attended and worked at dispersal, Aotea Square and Wakefield Street. Smaller crowd than usual.

Petrol vouchers for Tour de Ranges – Secretary distributed tonight to ZL1PJH, ZL1PZ, ZL1ULK, ZL1TO \$20 each. Voucher to be delivered to ZL1TCL \$10.

Clubhouse repaint: Gary ZL1WGL reported that the job is complete. ZL1TZP used a drone to photograph the roof. There is lots of lichen and moss. It has been sprayed with a first coat of “spray and walk away”.

The meeting thanked Gary for his effort by acclamation.

Deputation to Franklin Local Board Tuesday 17 March at 1020 hrs. Tom ZL1TO and Peter ZL1PJH attended and spoke in favour of the Council replacing the temporary fence with a permanent one at the budget forum. Andy Baker said, “We’d better get you a fence”. Sympathetically received in our 10 minute slot.

The meeting closed at 2019 hours.



Minutes of Franklin Amateur Radio Club (Inc) Committee Meeting held as a Zoom teleconference on 7 April 2020.

Chairman Mike ZL1UOM opened the meeting at 1945 hours.

Attendance: ZL1UOM, ZL1BQA, ZL1PJH, ZL1WGL, ZL1TO (from 7:43), ZL1DW (from 8:00)

Apology: ZL1ULK.

The minutes of the 4 March meeting circulated by email and published in abbreviated form in March QUA were approved as true and correct. ZL1BQA / ZL1WGL

Correspondence: Newsletters since previous QUA from branches 13/25, 02, 03, 65, 80, 86.

Correspondence report received.

ZL1TO / ZL1UOM

Finance.

Expenditure: Clubhouse paint job – Paid \$1825 comprising \$1350 labour plus \$475 for 2½ pails of paint (2 of Double Concrete and ½ of Half Stack at \$190 per 10 litre pail). Contact Energy \$54.71 for February. Power \$47.20 due 3 April. Reimbursement approved for when we come out of lockdown. Water - in credit \$5.37

Ted ZL1BQA suggested it would be wise to shift some funds from oncall to current account.

It is unlikely we will have a junk sale in July this year.

The finance report was received and power account passed for payment. ZL1BQA / ZL1WGL

Reports

Field Day: Logs were posted in time to meet the deadline.

AREC: Bombay fun run and St Patrick parade were reported to general meeting 17 March.

The temporary fence: Continues to be dismantled by vandals, but is still separating us from the skate park.

Welfare nets: on 690 at 0830 hrs daily except Sunday, and 1630 hrs daily are going well. This was a good move, initiated by Papakura Radio Club.

Club nets 3.700 MHz SSB at 0900 hrs and Bombay 690 at 0930 Sundays were discussed. There was general agreement that the 2 metre net should be advertised as starting when the 80 metre net has concluded. Ian ZL1PZ is to be approached to find his view on the matter.

General business:

General meeting on 21 April. We could meet on air.

Club 2 metre rig to be available for ZL1DW

The meeting closed at 2005 hours.

NEWSLETTERS FROM OTHER BRANCHES

02. (22 March) Photos of ZL1AA Field Day operations. Foxhunt postponed. No official meeting 21 March. Pennsylvania state law protects amateur tower.

02. (April) Club room closed until further notice. Committee met on Zoom. Wednesday nets well subscribed. Back yards on the air 18 April. World amateur radio day 18 April. Morse training with ZL1DK 3.755 MHz 1930 hours most days. ZL2AL activation marathon. Finnish 'Stay at home award'.

03. (23 March) Meetings cancelled for COVID-19. STSP repeater 146.925 available intermittently for members to keep in touch. Creating a new clubhouse antenna. Repeater link map.

03. (April) April and May meetings cancelled due to Covid-19. HF 3.65 MHz Fridays 8 pm and VHF 146.525 MHz 8.30 pm. STSP repeater 146.925 MHz most days for members. Review of Merv Thomas Dixielanders from 1962. John ZL1NE – home brew 6 m vertical antenna, tweaked using NanoVNA. John Cleese on Covid-19.

Conference 2020 is cancelled

NZART Council has made the decision to cancel the Conference in Shantytown this year. This is due to the COVID-19 situation and taking on board all the advice for doing so.

NZART Council expresses its thanks to the Conference 2020 Organising Committee for all the hard work put in to run this event, and the preparations done to date. Those who have registered to attend in Shantytown, contact Debby at HQ by email nzart@nzart.org.nz, advising a bank account for their registration payments to be refunded to.

NZART AGM Postponed to Saturday 5 September 2020

NZART AGM is postponed and relocated to Wellington on Saturday 5 September 2020. The AGM will be run as a one day event in Wellington, there is to be no Conference associated with the AGM, therefore there will be no alternative programme, no forums, there is no organising committee. NZART will organise and run the AGM.

It is intended to book the Brentwood Hotel, 16 Kemp Street, Kilbirnie, Wellington for the AGM.

The AREC AGM will be held after the NZART AGM at the same location. All dates and locations for the AGM are subject to change.

65. Meeting 1 April on Bombay 690. Calling frequency 146.475 MHz. Wellbeing net daily at 0830 on Bombay 690 and also 1630 hrs daily. Morse training 1930 hrs daily on 3.755 MHz. Fast radio bursts from 500 million light years in 16 day cycle. Lockdowns on the air.

66. Cover Matthew ZL1YOT in his bubble Tamaki River. Meeting 12 April on Microsoft Teams with presentation on WEFAX by Andy ZL1COP. NZART Council recommendation to suspend face to face club meetings. ZM prefix allowed during COVID-19 'special event'.

80. 2 m net Mondays at 2030 hrs on 147.980 MHz simplex. Closed signs on the clubhouse – for duration of lockdown. Items for sale from Fred Kennedy.

86. Cover photo – model of Sikorsky flying boat in clubhouse foyer. AGM deferred to July. T98 progress report.



Up she goes

These pictures show a 'new' antenna mast being lifted at Karaka.

If you come up on Sunday's club net odds are that some of your transmitted power will resonate on the attached wires.

For the story, turn the page.



NZART

It's not them

It's us

The story of an aerial build.

David ZL1DW

Being a new ham, I was keen to get on air, to experience the thrill of choosing when, and to see who's out there.

To undertake the build, I had plenty of decommissioning items (ironwork in telco speak) in my treasure trove. What could I best use?

Concrete block was left over from our kitchen floor pour a few years ago. I had asked Counties Ready Mix to put it in one of their moulds.

The mast was the flag pole which came from the clearing sale a while ago at the fencing business at 499 Great South Road, Penrose. It is 7.5 m long. The mast having moved around my yard a bit, had a few curves. I straightened it out with 4 tonne porta power ram inside a rack plinth used as a press frame.

Unistrut was used as chain plates, fixed to sides of the block with 12 x 100 mm masonry anchors. That provides flexibility for mounting other rigging. The mast step plate needed a new 16 mm hole for a better fit. I gave the step some creative plate bending, since someone at the fence yard had welded it 5 mm too narrow.

The galvanised wire stays came from my friendly scrap man Laurie, who'd sell me all sorts of interesting bits.

I couldn't find any turnbuckles. Sure there are some in the bolts department, but I couldn't find them. Never mind, I made some temporary ones up from threaded rod and L bracket.

The galvanized wire has nice crimped and thimble ends,

twisted the head onto a balun, and was ready to hoist. Went up very easy, which was a pleasant surprise. The angle at peak is about 140 degrees, so the mast is probably still a bit short. Cut some para cord for the 5 m fly ends, and tied one end to my TV aerial post, the other to a shipping container. Serge says I should get a Current Balun instead of this BH4DDF one. I will also make the head joint neater and more weatherproof.

The VNA reckons the antenna is resonant at 3.490 MHz. Odd. Never mind. I shortened the fly ends by about 600 mm and measured again. Now resonant at 3.740 MHz with SWR 1.23, and 1.3 at 3.700 MHz. That was good enough for my first transmission. I connected and checked with the club's Kenwood rig. I was pleased to have had the training time on it with members at Jock White field day.

The result on Sunday morning was good, one report of 20db over S9. That is OK for a beginner's first effort. Ted's voice was clearest and strongest signal at my end. He is definitely a fine role model with his technical expertise, attention to detail and willingness to share.

So I am finally on air, and can now log some more contacts, instead of just listening on local SDR or kiwi-sdr.

I know that the right rig to purchase will come along at the right time, after lock down ends. Hopefully good quality, and with some provenance and mana. For new hi-tech toys the QSX looks fascinating.

Thanks to all the members who've helped on this learning journey so far.

but was about 1m too long. I added another metre on the mast with a coupling joint of. 48 mm galvanised pipe. For spreaders I rummage my fencing parts boxes for perpendicular jointers, and rigging grabs.

For the peak, I added 1 m of 40 mm PVC pipe, so the aerial is away from the steel of the mast, and insulated. I added a halyard eye, shackle and sheave block. The total height is now about 10 m.

Ready for test raising. Mast assembly weighs about 100kg. Hand winch and load binders. Too tight at the start, needed more angle, so moved the standing end to a fixed eye above the shed doors. 2:1 on rope line was then ok. Halyard works well, rig seems stable enough for a light aerial. Could do with mid-span stays. Wouldn't put a sail up it!

Back down again, remove the extension, and lift with forklift onto the roof rack of the trailer for the move to the radio shack site. Move the block with my forklift, so easy after previously struggling moving heavy gear. Very satisfying, love having the right gear.

Raise the mast again. Use the trailer rack to gain height for leverage. Should have rigged two matching load binders side by side to make unspool and reload easier.

For aerial wire, I had a reel of 6 mm copper earth wire from my electrical department. I'm grumpy that I'd paid a little too much for it at an online auction a while ago, and it seemed very old stock; but now pleased because it was going to be used on a fun project. It is good quality copper, and the faded jacket doesn't matter for an outdoor project.

My online calculator said 19.27 m for the 3.700 MHz club Sunday net, so I cut at about 20 m and wrapped back.

