

QUA FARC

Franklin Amateur Radio Club Inc. NZART Branch 10



DECEMBER 2024

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 12

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Meetings: Club meetings are on the third Tuesday each month in the clubrooms, 19 Stadium Drive, Pukekohe, at 7.30 PM. Visitors welcome.

Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month (excepting January) at 7.30 PM in the clubrooms.

Subscriptions: Individual \$20, Family \$30, due December
See club secretary for bank account number

Nets: HF Sunday 9 AM, 3.700 MHz (Mike ZL1UOM); VHF Sunday 9.30 AM, 146.900 MHz (Peter ZL1PX); DMR on TalkGroup 5301, Wednesday 7.30 (Steve ZL1TZP)

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December Meeting



Andrea Thorburn-Craig visits the club Tuesday 17 December

A message from Andrea:

Hi Franklin Amateur Radio Club! My colleague Gill and I so look forward to meeting you Tuesday 17 December to talk about frauds and scams that are running within our community and can affect anyone. We will have time for questions and answers at the end of our discussion so please ask away with any of the questions you may have

Our next general meeting on Tuesday 17 December will feature Andrea Thorburn-Craig, Senior ASB Community Banker. Her topic will be **Fraud and Scam awareness**. This topic is often aired on our HF and 2M net conversations as most of us receive emails from bank fraudsters. In addition, many of us know well-educated, careful people who have been conned out of large sums of money by clever fraudsters.

Would you have the skills to spot that the 'bank officer' who says your account is under attack and wants you to verify yourself using your access number and email address is a fraud? Come along and find out.

Christmas Dinner



Franklin - Papakura joint Christmas dinner event

Papakura – Franklin joint club Christmas Dinner this year was at Blacksmith's restaurant, Papakura, on Friday 6 December. Thirty plus members attended the event which as usual was too short for this editor to get to all the people he needed to talk with. Well done, Papakura club, for sourcing good food and great service. Happy Christmas and we hope your stocking this year has that special radio item you've been eyeing up.



Your First CW QSO

[Taken from lidscw.org](http://lidscw.org)

You've been practising your Morse for a little while now and it's been hard work. Now someone has suggested you try a live QSO on air and all you want to do is run and hide until they go away! Don't panic; your friends at LIDS are here to help.

Start by finding someone to help you. You can do this by tweeting your request for a QRS sked, and add the hashtag #lids for good measure. You'll probably be inundated with offers. Arrange a mutually convenient time on a band you can both work that will give you a good chance of success. Also give them an idea of how slowly you want them to send to you. Be realistic; few things are more discouraging than trying to copy Morse that is too fast. Stay in your comfort zone.

Here are a few hints and tips for when it comes to the actual sked:

- Start by finding and exchanging on Twitter a mutually clear frequency.
- If your radio has a narrow CW filter, use it. You already know the exact QRG so eliminating as much adjacent interference as you can will make copy easier and more relaxing.
- Arrange for your sked partner to contact you rather than you making the first move. They can also take care of ensuring the frequency is clear (QRL?).
- Listen out for "<yourcall> <yourcall> DE <theircall> <theircall> KN".
- Take a deep breath and relax.
- Don't worry about messing up. You are working a friend, and your mistakes, hesitations and extended silences will be met with patience and understanding.
- Don't try to send faster than you are able. Take your time, think about each character you are going to send before you send it, even if that means taking a pause while you compose it in your head.
- You may find it helpful to keep a QSO template or crib sheet of standard exchanges in front of you, so that you don't get lost or forget what to say.
- Remember: you are not in a contest and there are no standards to attain.
- If you make a mistake in sending, pause, breathe, and send it again.
- Don't worry that your contact will be critical of poor sending or run out of patience. Quite the opposite. Like a parent watching their child take its first steps and then take a tumble, they will be nothing less than thrilled at hearing you make your first dits and dahs on the air.
- If the other person is sending too fast, send 'QRS'. There's no need to pad it out or explain why, simply put it back to them to send again at a speed you can manage.

- If you get really stuck, use Twitter's direct message facility as a talk-back channel.

When you've finished, wait for that adrenaline high – you've just made your first CW QSO – well done! Make sure you tell the world via Twitter; the congratulations will come flooding in, and rightly so. Don't forget to thank your contact, and ask them for constructive feedback. And then set up another sked!

73 ES GL.

A Brief History of Winlink

Ted Doell ZL1BQA

Winlink, formally known as Winlink Global Radio Email, is a worldwide radio messaging system that uses amateur-band radio frequencies and government frequencies to provide various communication services. Here's a brief history of Winlink.

Early Beginnings

Aplink: The origins of Winlink trace back to the early 1980s with a DOS-based program called Aplink (Amtor-Packet link), developed by Victor D. Poor, W5SMM. Aplink linked Amateur Radio HF AMTOR into VHF/UHF Amateur Packet networks and was widely used for long-haul text-based messages.

Evolution to Winlink

Winlink Classic: When the Windows programming language became available in the mid-1980s, Aplink was updated to Winlink Classic by Hans Kessler, N8PGR, and Victor Poor. This version was used extensively during the 1990 Gulf War for emergency communication.

Netlink: With the rise of the internet, Winlink needed to adapt. Steve Waterman, K4CJX, and Jim Jennings, W5EUT, developed Netlink, which interfaced radio digital messages with the internet.

Modern Winlink

Winlink 2000: The system evolved into Winlink 2000, providing email with attachments, position reporting, weather bulletins, emergency communications, and message relay. It became the standard network system for radio email worldwide.

Hybrid Network: In 2013, Winlink introduced the Hybrid Network, which uses HF sub-bands for message forwarding and delivery through a mesh-like smart network. This ensures communication even when internet connections are unavailable.

Winlink continues to play a crucial role in emergency and contingency communications worldwide, supported by volunteers and Amateur Radio.

President's Report 2024

Peter ZL1PX

This is the president's report for the year 2024. I will first give what I think were our main goals for the year and what we hoped to achieve. I will then describe the activities we took to further those goals and how successful they were. Finally, I have some ideas about activities for the coming year.

Our main goal is to promote the enjoyment of amateur radio as a hobby. This would mean bringing enjoyable experiences to our existing members and working to recruit new members. Radio clubs all over the world work to meet this goal by... 1. Offering good speakers at meetings, and 2. Organizing interesting activities through the year.



Speakers - We began in February with Steve (SPR) talking about a visit to the USS Missouri. This was followed by an explanation of DMR from Steve (TZP), DAB from David Black, Audio Services from Selwyn of Positive Aging, Lithium ion battery technology from Vance, portable operating by Philip Sharp ZL1PSH. Philip's talk led to Steve showing us the websites he used for alerts and spotting the following month. We also had passing the radio exam by Ted with help from Mike. Our next speaker has taken a bit of time to find but will be Andrea Craig, an expert on scams and bank fraud. These speakers between them have offered a varied and interesting range of topics. The talk by Steve on DMR motivated 8 of us experienced hams to get an Anytone radio and begin taking part in DMR talk groups. Ted's talk on passing the radio exam provided strong motivation to Damian and John who are both currently studying for the exam.

Activities - A successful club needs to also offer members regular activities where they can work as a team and build up club camaraderie. This year began well and got better - with SOTA and POTA activities by Steve TZP and Jason on New Year's day and the day after. In February we had a big turnout of hams for our Jock White field day - with over a dozen taking part - Francois, Steve and Jason on their first ever Jock White. In May we did an AREC search and rescue exercise in Waiuku forest and a car rally at Jacks Ridge Whitford. July saw a successful Used Equipment sale with Ted once again in fine selling form and our biggest take for some time. In August MOTAT invited us to a live demo and we did our biggest ever 'send your name in Morse' event with over 30 youngsters sending their name. Also in August Steve Main, the Upper North Island AREC manager, visited the club to help review our progress in AREC. I notice AREC this year offered many more training and simulation activities than ever before and a record number of our AREC members took advantage of this by attending a whizz number of events both on-line and face to face. October 1 was international seniors' day and more than a dozen of us involved ourselves in the Franklin Positive Ageing Expo. Also in October we ran JOTA in the clubrooms and operated Morse code stations for the GVR railway on Labour Weekend. And if this wasn't enough, we also offered our members extra learning nights on DMR in February, a CW taster in March, some DMR again in April and May and the Junk sale prep in June.

So, we had good speakers and satisfying activities. How much did these activities contribute to our goal of promoting amateur radio? It's difficult to know. Holding JOTA in the clubrooms meant over 30 scouts and their families became aware there was an amateur radio club in Pukekohe. Operating Morse code at the GVR meant 15 families saw ham radio in action. At the MOTAT event 30 youngsters used a live Morse key. Adding up just these three events, we have presented ham radio to over 75 families who would otherwise not know of our existence. Our attendance at a car rally and an ageing expo event must also have helped raise our visibility. We have spread enjoyment in ham radio certainly and we have enjoyed doing it. But how much this enjoyment will lead to new members we can only surmise.

That leads me to what we might consider in the coming year. If getting new members is a numbers game, and it probably is, we need to find the biggest public events we can. I haven't any evidence for this but I suspect dynamic events where visitors have to do something are more likely to lead to an interest in ham radio. From this I would suggest we design our 2025 activities to get as much engagement as we can from visitors whether it be talking, keying, or writing a message on radio. If they feel involved, they will remember the event and do something later to recall that feeling - such as email a radio club or tell their friends about the experience.

Finally, I want to thank all our members for putting in the many hours you have in all our activities and events this year. You have amazed and delighted me with your energy and enthusiasm. Thank you for allowing me to enjoy this year with you as your president.