

QUA FARC

Franklin Amateur Radio Club Inc. NZART Branch 10



FEBRUARY 2024

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 2

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Examiners: Tom ZL1TO, Peter ZL1PX
Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/zl1sa>
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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.

Next General Meeting and 2024 Speakers Program

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 20 February January at 7.30 PM in the clubrooms located at 19 Stadium Drive, Pukekohe. Ted ZL1BQA has made the kind offer of leading a discussion group on a number of questions for club members. Ted would like to see input or questions on anything related to Amateur Radio. Here are some suggestion. What modes do you use and why? What do you enjoy most? What would you like help or tuition on? What would you like to share with the club? Ted says the main thing is to take part in any subject in a positive way, no negatives, keeping in mind that we are all different and look at things in a different way and enjoy different things.

Our Program for the year so far. February: Ted ZL1BQA leads a club sharing session, March: David Black ZL1MZ talks on digital audio broadcasting, April: Graham Anderson speaks to the club on Auckland's Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT).

Practical Training Sessions

Steve has generously offered to lead a practical tutorial session on DMR at the clubrooms on Tuesday 13th February starting at 7.30 pm. He will bring along a laptop and hotspot. He will show us how to download the code plug from a DMR radio and edit this. After editing, he can connect us to his hotspot and test the edit is successful. There are hundreds of settings needed for DMR so this offer of Steve's to show us how to navigate the code plug software is an extremely useful one.

Peter will hold a 'taster' session on CW on Tuesday 12th March at the clubrooms to start at 7.30 PM. . He will show you how to install TeachMorse8, create character strings, paste these into a play window and create a 15 minute Morse training session running at 6 wpm. Bring laptop, paper, pencil and ears.

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

Subscriptions: individual \$20, family \$30, due December
Bank Number: 02-0404-0157944-000

Nets: HF Sunday 9 AM, 3.700 MHz (Mike ZL1UOM); VHF Sunday 9.30 AM, 146.90 MHz (Peter ZL1PX); DMR on Talkgroup 5301, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 7.30 (Steve ZL1TZP).

QUA editor: Peter ZL1PX pjh@teachlit.com

QUA is sent by email to members and anyone interested.
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Jock White Field Days: February 24/25

Peter ZL1PX



Franklin Amateur Radio 'TEAM' will operate from Gary's (ZL1WGL) farm in Attewell Road, Puni, over the Field Day weekend this year. Logistics expert Gary will be kindly installing shelter housing so members are able to spend the night at the site. Our Grid Square reference will be RF72kt.

Saturday Field Day starts at the clubhouse at 10 AM for loading. This is when road crew workers pick up antennas, coax, transceivers, power supplies and generator and transport them to Puni. We need a minimum of six road crew personnel to get all equipment loaded and transported to Attewell Road site.

Once all gear arrives at Puni, our expert riggers begin to erect antennas and start the generator. They will need to work fast. At three, we start calling CQ. This year we transmit on both SSB and CW so many operators will be needed to keep the RF flowing through until midnight. Please make yourself known to Jock White report writer Tom to be included in the operator schedule.



Field Day Site – Attewell Road, Puni

Our photographic experts will need to be vigilant to catch those dramatic moments when a VK or FK (New Caledonia) call sign pops up unexpectedly. Send your pictures along to this newsletter afterwards. And of course, everything flows better when our caterers are on hand with coffee, tea and snacks.



Field Day 2022 Tom and Phil working to meet the challenge

Sunday morning will begin at 6 AM on the 40 M band. This is when CW should make some early points. But points are not the main goal. Jock White is about teamwork. Our club is being challenged to see if we can work together on a common objective – to set up a mobile station and make contact with amateurs across the southern hemisphere. Can we meet and overcome that challenge? There is only one way to find out – we each commit ourselves to getting ourselves along to Gary's farm and doing whatever it takes to help the team.



2022 Durlene ZL1ULK works the band.

For those newbies who have not yet taken part in Field Day, you are in for a treat. Making contact with ham after ham, copying call signs, adding to each serial number when the next call comes in, tuning up and down the band until you find a new caller – this is tense but exciting work – each half hour you spend on air will seem to have lasted just a few short minutes. If you haven't yet done a Field Day, make a decision on how you can help on the Saturday or Sunday and give it a try.

At the risk of repeating myself, Jock White is not about points. We are being asked to make a team effort, to work together, to combine our skills on a project that is bigger than each one of us. When we work like this, we score in a much more significant way than we do when we receive mere contest points. Our club becomes a stronger, more robust unit, better able to handle whatever we encounter in our own lives and in the community around us. That's a prize worth reaching for.

Learn CW: an honest summary

Peter ZL1PX

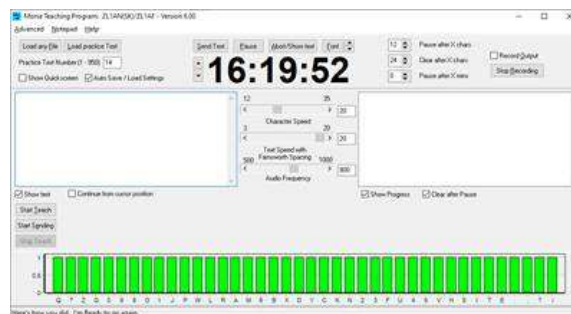
It is not difficult to learn Morse code but it will take a big chunk of your time. If you have a big chunk of time available, that's great. But if you currently find yourself with a list of things you need to fix by yesterday, then CW might not be your thing.



If you are still reading this, well done. You are not the sort to get easily discouraged.

The most commonly used way to learn Morse is to employ a software package that will send at a speed you can copy and which can increase speed as you get faster.

[TeachMorse from NZART.ORG](http://NZART.ORG) is exactly that kind of package. But whatever software you employ, it should be capable of setting separate speeds for characters and for spacing.



Character speed is the delivery speed of a single letter, number or punctuation. Most telegraphists will tell you to set your character speed at 20 WPM and leave it there a couple of years.



Text or Farnsworth spacing is the overall speed of a passage of text. At the beginning of your learning, you set Farnsworth spacing to around 6 WPM. Then, with your character speed at 20 and your spacing at 6, you become accustomed to hearing characters at a fast speed but do not feel rushed as the spacing gives you time to recognize the sounds.

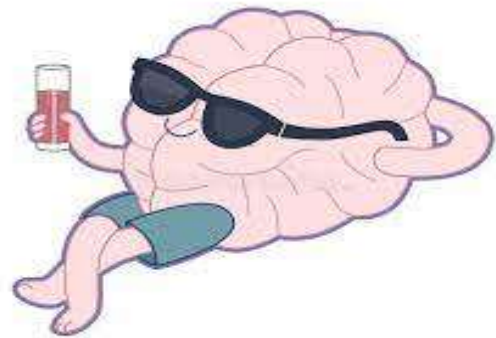


When should you increase your spacing speed? This will vary enormously from person to person. I preferred to stay on a particular WPM level until I was better than 90 per cent accurate on that level. Other Ops report to me they need to feel challenged and find themselves dozing off once they pass 60 to 75 per cent accuracy.

For most people, especially those in their later adult years, it takes time to reach the stage of hearing a sound and recognizing it immediately.



It helps if you can take a few days break from Morse learning every so often. You might then find a letter or number that you struggled with before has been stored in long term memory becoming instantly recognizable every time you hear it. Eventually you begin to recognize all letters and numbers instantly - and not have to compare them with a 'chart' kept in your mind somewhere.



For the majority of newcomers, sending Morse is easy, certainly a great deal easier than receiving Morse. Most will use a straight key to begin with and then after a year or so move to an electronic keyer and a set of paddles.



Learners will often start doing CW QSOs within their first year of learning and find they can copy a good third of the Morse messages that are out there. A number of experienced ops will slow down to the speed they hear you sending. But be warned, there are plenty of ops who can't or won't slow down for newbies.



There is another kind of op who doesn't go that fast but who makes mistakes. I find him encouraging. He is a reminder to me that I am not perfect myself and I probably send just as many mistakes in his direction as he sends to me.



I have found Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) members are exceptionally good at matching their speed to yours, especially during SKCC 'Saunter' events. Provided I open the QSO at a speed I know I can cope with, SKCC operators almost always send me easy copy.

This accommodating behavior, thinking of others' needs, is fairly widespread among CW hams. Yes, there are contest addicts who can't wait to send you a 73, but a majority of CW operators are genuinely pleased to be in contact with you and want a mutually beneficial exchange.



There is one other aspect of Morse that you may not expect. Your DX log will expand quickly once you begin to use a key. Even within my short CW career, I have been in contact with hams from more than 20 countries. One US operator has even visited NZ and called at my home as a result of a CW contact.

But let's get back to learning Morse. I started Morse in my 74th year and now, at 77, I can copy 16 WPM with an accuracy level of around 95 per cent. It has taken time, but the pleasure and satisfaction this skill has opened for me has been immense.

As I said in my opening to this summary, Morse is not that difficult. If you keep going, you will reach your goal. You just have to spend time doing it. Time equals achievement. It is that simple.



NZART CONFERENCE 2024 RAFFLE #3 200 TICKETS AT \$10 PER TICKET

Tickets will be available at Branch 05 and Branch 68 meetings, otherwise email treasurer@chchhamradio.org.nz for alternative arrangements. Winner to be drawn prior to the auction at Branch 05 on 19 March 2024. All fundraising goes towards this year's NZART Conference at Wigram Air Force Museum.

Deposit \$10 per ticket in the Conference 2024 bank account- 03-0826-0145249-003 with your call sign as the reference.

Xiegu X6100 HF/6m Transceiver
Current Techoman price \$1294



Minutes of Franklin Amateur Radio Club (Inc) General Meeting
held at the clubhouse, Stadium Drive, Pukekohe 16 January 2024

Chairperson Steve ZL1TZP opened the meeting at 1930 hours and welcomed all.

Attendance: ZL1TZP, ZL1TO, ZL4FJ, ZL1UOM, ZL1AMQ, ZL1SPR, ZL1LL, ZL1ULK, ZL1MFL, ZL1BQA, ZL1RP, ZL1WGL, ZL1GAC.

Apology: ZL1PX, accepted. ZL1TZP / ZL1BQA

Minutes of the December meeting.

Approved true and correct.

ZL1WGL / ZL1TO

Correspondence

Newsletters received since publication of January QUA, from Branch:

65. No formal meetings in January. Featured DX – VP9KF Bermuda and Z9AN Dominica. Jock White field days rules. NASA's Parker Solar Probe plans for 2024. Rechargeable sodium batteries. Free Linux training.

The correspondence report was accepted.

ZL1TO / ZL1TZP

Finance

Income Interest \$92.75 (4 January).

Subscriptions received for 2023/24 from ZL1RP, ZL1LL, ZL1ULK, ZL1MFL, ZL1TZP, ZL1PX, ZL1WGL, ZL1GAC
– Donations in lieu of sub ZL1BQA, ZL1TO, ZL1UOM.

Subscription received tonight ZL1AMQ.

Expenditure Power bill \$36.14 in credit for 3 January (Counties Energy discount \$84.95)

The kitchen window was found to be broken on Sunday 7 January. It was repaired by Glassways on 9 January, and their invoice of \$219.20 was paid on the same day. The damage may have been done by a bottle of Hennessy Collector's Edition. Members of the committee were involved in the clean up and were agreeable to the terms of the glass replacement. The club intends to accept the offer of a replacement blind. The Secretary was asked to file a report with Police, so they are aware of ongoing vandalism in our area.

The term deposit was rolled over for a further 1 year period at 6.1%. Interest is being paid monthly to our 00 account.

New hams are offered gratis membership for their first year.

The finance report was approved.

ZL1TO / ZL1BQA

Reports

AREC

There was a Teams meeting 1900 hrs 11 January. Lead by Northern Regional Manager, Steve Main ZL2RI. Another six attending. Tom ZL1TO did not log in until 25 minutes into the meeting.

AREC members are encouraged to complete the online survey which is still live.

Jock White Field Day on 24 Saturday & 25 Sunday February 2024

District volunteers for Health Safety and Welfare support role wanted - 10 across NZ – but so far Northern Region has none. Dave ZL1MR is happy to mentor and guide people into the role.

Members are encouraged to use the AREC membership hub www.arec.nz The mailer is the preferred method of communicating.

All AREC members are encouraged to have done the first health and safety training module.

AREC Roadshow in Waikato, some time in March.

SARTrack Course/s in Auckland, with date to be advised. Comprising Introduction, User or Technical. Regional monthly meeting open to all members by Teams. Possibly the 4th Thursday of the month at 1900 hrs.

Next Regional Manager's Meeting: 8 February 2024.

Preparation for this year's Franklin Junk Sale

We have some gear already and it needs sorting out at some stage. Some items will be coming from ZL1BBZ too. A mast and a long 2m antenna are lined up. There is also some material from a warehouse. A 2m all mode rig on the front table has no obvious fault but is not working.

MOTAT

Peter ZL1PX has had some correspondence. The 17 March date is changed to 18 August for an operating day of radio. Peter is pleased to report that he has been in touch with Graham Anderson who will speak at this club.

75th anniversary.

Its coming up next year in 2025. The committee will look after arrangements.

General business

Durlene ZL1ULK drew attention to there being no 2m net on Sunday 14th . There were only 3 checked in on the 80m net. It was agreed that if the 80m net is going on a bit beyond 9:30 am then someone can exit 80 m briefly at that time to make an announcement on 2m to that effect. The DMR net is on Tuesday nights nowadays too. DMR net participants have a topic to talk about each night.

Topics at coming general meetings

February: A round table discussion of ham related topics. Ted ZL1BQA will chair the discussion. All to think of a topic to throw into the mix.

David ZL1MZ will talk at March meeting on DAB, but will need some warning regarding a date.

Jock White Field Days 2024

Confirmed we will have the venue at ZL1WGLs. Regarding a trailer to collect the gear; Mike ZL1UOM can offer a cage trailer.

Cliff ZL1RP noted that the DMR net is on Tuesdays – but QUA says Wednesday.

ZL1TZP may have a DMR discussion group, say 2nd Tuesday in February. Topics to work on include increasing the number channels, alteration to hot spots and channel programming. The preferred venue is in the clubhouse on a Tuesday evening. It was agreed that PiStar is very stable. A big update for PiStar is in the offing.

The meeting closed at 2015 hours

Addendum – Damage to window



- Left: Top of bottle found in kitchen
- Middle: From an advertisement for Cognac
- Right: Damage to window and blind

Minutes of Franklin Amateur Radio Club (Inc) Committee Meeting held at the clubhouse, Stadium Drive, Pukekohe 6 February 2024

Chairperson Steve ZL1TZP opened the meeting at 1930 hours and welcomed all, extending thanks for coming.

Attendance: ZL1TZP, ZL1TO, ZL1AMQ, ZL1WGL, ZL1SPR, ZL1BQA, ZL1UOM

Apologies: ZL1PX (Covid) ZL1TZP / ZL1WGL
ZL1TZP apologises for next month committee meeting.

Minutes of the December committee meeting.

Approved ZL1TO / ZL1WGL

Correspondence

Newsletters received since publication of January QUA, from Branches:

13-25:January. Cover Eiffel Tower. Napier 6m WSPR transmitters working well. Pakowai Hall repairs under way. Satellite station for sale. Sterba curtain antenna.

65: ZL2SEA to speak on Winlink 7 February. Field Day preparation. DX – YJ0AA Efate Island Vanuatu 4-11 February. President's motorhome expedition to South Island. Installing a home solar generation system. Development of Li-Fi. Estate items for sale by tender.

Counties Energy. Our power will be off late evening 15-16 February.

The correspondence report was accepted. ZL1TO / ZL1BQA

Finance

Transactions

Opening Balance (30/11/2023) **570.24 CR**

Closing Balance (06/02/2024) **718.46 CR**

Income Interest \$89.75 (4 January), \$108.80 (5 February)

Subscriptions for 2023/24 have now been received from ZL1RP, ZL1LL, ZL1ULK, ZL1MFL, ZL1TZP, ZL1PX, ZL1WGL, ZL1GAC, ZL1AMQ – Donations in lieu of sub ZL1BQA, ZL1TO, ZL1UOM

Expenditure Power bill zero for January and \$21.30 (2 February) due to discount
The broken kitchen window was repaired at a cost of \$219.20 in early January.

The term deposit rolled over in January for 12 months, with interest at 6.1%

Thanks to Steve ZL1TZP for the replacement blind, and fitting it. (Payment for the blind cutter is to be made).

The finance report was approved.

ZL1TO / ZL1BQA

Reports

AREC.

AREC Display at Museum of Transport and Technology

Auckland AREC will be taking part in an Emergency Response Live Day at The Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT) on Sunday 18 February. Andy Brill ZL1COP Group Leader, North Shore AREC glnthshore@arec.nz has advised:

There will be a working display of AREC equipment, including the Auckland AREC comms van. To make this display work we need people to talk to, so we are looking for people in Auckland, and throughout the country who are able to participate by contacting us by radio during the day. We will also need some on site volunteers to man the display.

The Plan so far:

Date/Time 1000 – 1600 hrs approximately, Sunday 18 February.

Location: Museum of Transport and Technology, near the Telecommunications section 805 Great North Road, Western Springs.

Operating on the following modes and channels:

Local Comms:

Emergency Services Band – ESB03 – Tamahunga CDEM repeater – for comms with Community groups in the Rodney Area. Can use other CDEM channels if other groups wish to participate.

Auckland 670 VHF Amateur Repeater.

PRS UHF repeater PRS05 Waitakere.

National Comms

AREC UHF DMR digital radio network – Waitakere repeater – ZK Talkgroup

HF SSB 7115 kHz

Vara HF Peer to Peer data 7115 and 10130 kHz.

Vara HF Winlink Email– Any useable HF gateway frequency.

Callsign on Amateur Frequencies – ZK1EBW

Callsign on other channels - "MOTAT COMMS BASE".

Obviously, we can't talk on all channels at once, so if you don't get a response we may be busy. You can call us by phone on 0223546451 and set up a call on any channel or mode.

You can also Email us via HF radio by sending a normal email or a Telnet Winlink message. Our Winlink email address is ZK1EBW@winlink.org. Telnet Address ZK1EBW. Unless you have contacted ZK1EBW before via Winlink you will need to use the following subject line in your email to allow the system to accept your message: /WL2K R/MOTAT Display

If you would like to join us on site and maybe assist in the display, or just participate on the radio from home, please contact Andy with your details and what you would like to do. It would be great to get some other AREC groups and Community Response Groups involved as an exercise, but any assistance is welcome.

Note that NZ Emergency and Defence Services personnel and their families can get free entry into MOTAT from the 17th – 25th of FEB - Bring your AREC ID card to take advantage of this offer.

Peter ZL1PX has reported MOTAT would like to see us again in August 2024 for a similar activity to 2023.

75th anniversary.

Barbara Knowles has expressed interest, and has information in her archives on Bob ZL6IW (SK).

The Secretary is to meet Barbara face to face to get the information. An item is to go into the newsletter so that other former members may make their archives available. In particular we will want information from - ZL1BQA (10 years on Council, 2 years as Vice President of NZART) - When was Ian ZL1PZ on Council - Fred ZL1SP did 4 years on Council – Bob ZL1BBZ was also on council (and may still have his Council certificate).

General business

ZL1UOM's neighbour has an antenna farm and may have been a lighthouse keeper.

Protocol around free membership for new hams.

The tradition within the club has been to give free membership for the remainder of the year that a new ham joins the club, with the first subscription due after the next AGM subsequent to their joining. Such a process should help us to document membership statistics which may be required by the Companies Office.

Constitution

Gary ZL1WGL remarked that his caravan club is going through the process of using the constitution builder at the Companies Office. Ted ZL1BQA pointed out that the required disputes process may be three A4 pages of the constitution. The Secretary was asked to enquire of Debbie at NZART Headquarters for an update on Council's progress with advice to member clubs.

Topics at coming general meetings

February: A round table discussion of ham related topics. Ted will chair the discussion. All members attending are asked to bring a question.

March: Looks like the speaker will be David Black ZL1MZ on digital audio broadcasting (DAB). John ZL3AQT may visit us at one of these meetings, on the invitation of Steve ZL1TZP.

April: Graham Anderson from MOTAT with Mark Vincent.

July: Junk sale

Project evenings

DMR meeting at clubhouse 13 February 7.30 pm with Steve ZL1TZP – programming channels into codeplugs To bring radio, programming cables and laptops.

CW. Tuesday 12 March led by Peter ZL1PX.

Jock White Field Days 2024

We have accepted an offer from Gary ZL1WGL for the venue of our station at 200 Attwell Road. We will contest two bands - both phone and CW.

Junk sale

ZL1TKQ is the vendor of some of the junk sale offerings. An IC290 rig is one offering.

The meeting closed at 2050 hours