

# QUA FARC

Franklin Amateur Radio Club Inc. NZART Branch 10



# FEBRUARY 2025

VOLUME 34 ISSUE 2

President: Peter Henderson ZL1PX  
Vice President: Steve Doell ZL1TZP  
Secretary: Tom McDonald ZL1TO Ph. 09 238 8580  
Committee Members: Mike Jane ZL1UOM, Ted Doell ZL1BQA, Gary Landon ZL1WGL, Frank Male ZL1AMQ, Steve Spring ZL1SPR  
Examiners: Tom ZL1TO, Peter ZL1PX  
Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/zl1sa>  
Webmaster: Steve ZL1TZP

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

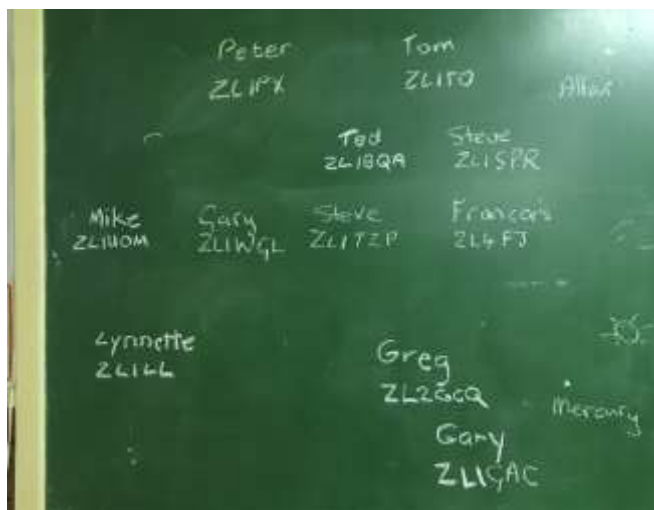
## Next Meeting

Our next gathering will be on Tuesday 18 February at 7.30 PM in the clubrooms on 19 Stadium Drive, Pukekohe. We will have a 'mystery' speaker beam in on Teams to talk on radio history in the 1920s. The Teams link will be available for club members earlier in the day.

## January Meeting

Peter ZL1PX

Our first 2025 meeting showed enthusiasm for radio runs deep and strong in the Franklin Club. Asked to 'contribute something' to a show-and-tell evening, they came to the meeting with eyes lit like Christmas lights. They had so much to say we continued happily until well after 10 PM.



Meeting muster for January 2025

Steve ZL1SPR delighted us with his new 3D printer and some of his printouts. Steve ZL1TZP shared [Thingiverse](https://thingiverse.com/Steve_ZL1TZP), a website storeroom for 3D printer files. With holiday time available, Francois ZL4FJ had enjoyed himself building a new control unit for his Tait mobile radio. Over the same time period, Ted ZL1BQA build a 'Pixie S' which transmits and receives Morse code on 7.032 MHz. Curiously, Ted's

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)

QUA editor: Peter ZL1PX [pjh@teachlit.com](mailto:pjh@teachlit.com)

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radio has two identical crystal components, one to fix the TX frequency and one to filter incoming signals.



Comet C/2024 G3 seen from the International Space Station. (Source: NASA/Don Pettit)

Lynnette presented two collections of certificates, QSL cards and contest awards she achieved in her ham radio career - impressively mounted in hard cover form and easy to browse. One of them showed she passed a Morse code test at 5 WPM, at the time a mandatory part of the amateur radio competence exam.

Tom spoke to the meeting on Comet C/2024 G3 (Atlas) now visible from New Zealand. Mike ZL1UOM brought along metal sectors he created for a planned Wimshurst Machine. Wimshursts, invented by James Winshurst around 1882 generate enormous DC currents. My contribution was to explain how I will achieve 25 WPM in Morse by the end of the year. I am a bit unsure about that one.

My thanks go to all our contributors for their high-interest presentations.

### Upcoming Events: Jock White

The Jock White Memorial Field Day Contest is to be held Saturday/Sunday 22nd & 23rd February. This is the biggest ham event of the year in New Zealand with clubs from all parts of the country seeking to set up equipment off-grid and make the most contacts they can on the 80 and 40 meter bands.

All members are invited to attend this event at the Attewell Road property of Gary ZL1WGL. This event proved exciting and popular last year with high member participation.



Durlene ZL1ULK calls CQ on 80 meters while Tom ZL1TO calculates multipliers at Jock White

Our plan is to assemble at the clubhouse at 10 AM, load up equipment and get the site operational before 3 PM when the contest begins. There will be 18 operating periods one hour in length. Saturday runs from 1500 to midnight. Sunday runs 0600 to 1500.

We will seek contacts on 80 and 40 meters on SSB and CW. Rules allow for simultaneous transmission on 40 and 80 but not within each band. Callers exchange and record signal reports, a serial number and a branch number.

Usually an operator shift is for an hour so we need a lot of operators. Operators do not have to be licenced as long as the station is under a licenced amateur's control so please consider coming along if you are studying for your exam. We intend to run a BBQ around 6 pm Saturday so bring along your own sausage or two.

Last year, we had a record turnout of operators and one suggestion which we can hopefully follow this year is to have a 'recorder' work alongside each operator to fill in log details such as call signs and serial numbers to allow the operator to focus solely on radio control.

### Upcoming Events: Waiuku SteelN Wheels



L to R: Durlene ZL1ULK, David ZL1MZ, Tom ZL1TO and Lynnette ZL1LL at Waiuku SteelN Wheels

Waiuku Classic Car Steel N Wheels Festival will run on Sunday 13 April this year, the week before Easter. When we last attended this event, we adopted a talking demo. This year, we give people a chance to send Morse code messages. We have operators from Music Point and North Shore along to assist with keying. We will also need 'trainers' who can help visitors learn their name in Morse in preparation for their transmission.

### CW Training on Echolink

After a successful 2024, Franklin Amateur Radio Club resumed Morse code training on Monday 3 February 2025. Training sessions will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:00 pm NZT, 0700 ZULU. Character speed will start at 18 wpm with Farnsworth spacing of 5 wpm. We will keep this speed until all students are ready for a faster pace. Emphasis will be on accuracy rather than speed. It is assumed learners have already been introduced to all alphabet and number characters plus full stop, comma, question mark and slash.

All amateur radio CW enthusiasts are welcome but, and this is an important but, learning CW is a big commitment in time and energy so please consider carefully whether you have the time, energy and motivation to keep coming back to sessions. We would rather have a small number of dedicated trainees than a high number of people who only return for two or three sessions. It also helps if you maintain contact with us by email through the training so we are aware of difficulties or obstacles you encounter and can make changes to the lessons that will assist your progress.

Join the training by connecting to ZL1PX on [Echolink](#).

## AREC ON LINE TRAINING



Standing: Tom ZL1TO, Seated Steve ZL1TZP, Steve ZL1SPR and Ted ZL1BQA

Photo: Peter ZL1PX

On Tuesday 11 February, five committee members met at the clubhouse to explore how the AREC Website can be accessed by members. We all brought along laptops. Initially, we tried to recollect our passwords and check in to <https://arec.nz/>. This took time as some passwords were not available. However, thanks to AREC.NZ's password reset tool, we all eventually managed to find AREC.NZ and check in successfully.

We were all keen to start on-line training. Your editor passed Core 1.1 AREC Basic Structure and Background relatively easily. Core 1.2 Health and Safety Induction 1 proved more difficult. The module wanted a text box filled in on the topic of Hazards and Risks and how these were managed on a normal AREC exercise. Neither Tom nor your editor could move beyond this hurdle. What information did they want? We searched the pages to find some help. Ted, Steve and Steve raced ahead however, talking their way the past the Entrant modules and making advances on Rules, Policies and Procedures.

Two hours after we started, we gathered to see how our learning time could be logged. AREC have thoughtfully set this up so that a batch log can be completed. Steve ZL1SPR showed us how. He entered the date, time started, time ended and all our call signs in a few short minutes. As a result our February log will show a healthy number of hours expended on AREC training.

We intend to organise another AREC on-line session soon. It's a great excuse to get together and learn at the same time. We look forward to seeing you at future sessions.