



Committee

President: Mike Jane ZL1UOM

Vice President: Gary Landon ZL1WGL

Secretary: Tom McDonald ZL1TO Ph. 09 238 8580.

Together with: Gary Collins ZL1GAC, Ted Doell ZL1BQA, Durlene Griffin ZL1ULK, Peter Henderson ZL1PJH.

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 and 9.30 am on the 146.900 MHz repeater. 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.

Tour de Ranges

Amateur radio has been used for safety communications at this annual cycle race around the Hunua Range for several years. This year the event was held on Saturday 18 January. Richard ZL1BNQ of Papakura AREC led the team, and four of the nineteen stations came from Franklin. Radio base and the finish of all the road races were at Clevedon.

In a departure from normal the 30 km event changed from an 'out and back' race to the end of Ness Valley Road, to a one way race from Kawakawa Bay. The 110 km event started at 7.15 am in Clevedon, and 65 km at 8 am from Mangatangi. All events proceeded anticlockwise around the Hunua Range in the middle.

Everything ran very smoothly, with no serious incidents. With all events having just one route through the intersections, traffic management was simpler too.

Field stations transmitted on 146.825 MHz simplex with the base station's UHF signal being heard through a crossband repeater.

All told there were 500 competitors.

Franklin's teams comprised Durlene ZL1ULK at John Hill Road (Hunua), Ian ZL1PZ at Mangatangi Road (Mangatawhiri), Peter ZL1PJH with Mike at Kaiaua Road (Mangatangi), and Tom ZL1TO with Bob ZL1BBZ at McNicol Road (Clevedon).

Below: A well behaved bunch at McNicol Road



Club Notice Board

General meeting, Tuesday 21 January

After formal business President Mike ZL1UOM will tell us about his recent tour of Europe, where his travel had been by waterway.

Jock White Memorial Field Days

HF Field Days are at the last full weekend of February, on 22 and 23 February 2020. Our team and the location will need to be sorted at the January general meeting.

Bombay Fun Run, Sunday 15 March

There is likely to be an opportunity for members to assist with communications for this annual fun run that commemorates the arrival of settlers aboard *Bombay* in March 1865.

Congratulations

David McNeill passed the exam on 15 December, and now has the callsign ZL1DW. Do make a point of answering David's on air calls. David has expertise in computing that when combined with his radio qualification makes him a valuable resource in that field.

The club has not been an active promoter of radio classes, but we have been able to direct several new hams to the NZART web site resources, and to provide mentoring to people who are confident with this 'correspondence school' style of learning.

Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the policy of Franklin Amateur Radio Club.



Minutes of Franklin Amateur Radio Club (Inc) General Meeting held in the Clubrooms Stadium Drive Pukekohe, 17 December 2019.

Chairman Mike ZL1UOM opened the meeting at 1936 hours. Congratulations were extended to a recent successful exam pass.

Attendance: ZL1UOM, ZL1TO, ZL1ULK, ZL1BQA, ZL1PJH, ZL1WGL, ZL1LL, David McNeill, Mike Lee, ZL1TZP, ZL1BBZ

Minutes: The minutes of the November meeting were approved as a true record. ZL1BQA / ZL1TO

Correspondence:

Newsletters from branches 29, 65, 66, 03, 80

Letter to lease manager and community broker have been delivered.

Report to Police following graffiti attack on afternoon of Monday 2 December.

Communications with Pukekohe Police subsequent to further graffiti attacks and attempted robbery on our Secretary. The meeting agreed with a suggestion from Mike ZL1UOM that a hurricane wire fence at the front would be better than the timber panels we have at present. David McNeill offered a small steel gate for the rear. Email from Coral Timmins offering a temporary fence.

ZL1PJH has written a report, which was accidentally overlooked when December QUA was being prepared. Vouchers were exchanged on the day.

Publicity: The meeting congratulated Peter ZL1PJH on getting us in *What's On* in the County News. Attention was drawn to an article by Peter ZL1PJH in the latest BreakIn.

David McNeill said that he can get us on Google Maps as Franklin Amateur Radio Club. However we need a postal address in order to get a listing. Members balked at the suggestion of paying for the service.

Bob ZL1BBZ suggested that we may need to rescind the motion at last month's AGM that we change our AREC section leader to a liaison officer. The AREC constitution makes no provision for such an office. We will let things stand for the meantime.

General business:

Strategy for future of clubhouse location. Ideas were brainstormed.

We are to box up operational radio equipment and move it to a secure location, until we are assured of the security of this property. ZL1BQA / ZL1PJH

Such locations can be in the use of our new hams.

Bob ZL1BBZ questioned if we need a clubrooms. Tom ZL1TO said the building is our identity as a club. Ian ZL1PZ was unimpressed that we would give in to a few yahoos.

The meeting closed at 2055 hours.

Email from Andy Baker suggesting we consider a shift to A&P showground.

Communications with Manukau Beautification Trust after each graffiti incident. Members who notice graffiti can phone 0800 GETTAGS and Manukau Beautification respond with their free service within 24 hours.

Report on correspondence received

Finance:

Expenditure: Insurance cheque posted to FMG \$633.54 21 November not presented by balance date. FMG Post newsletter received 16 December.

Secretary posted photo of extinguishers and the electrical certificate to FMG.

Counties Power paid 4 December \$52.27

The meeting approved the roll-over of the term deposit, which matures 5 January, for another year.

The finance report was received. ZL1TO / ZL1PJH

Reports

AREC: Petrol vouchers (\$20 each) have all been delivered for all car drivers assisting the Maramarua forest event Sunday 3 November.

Regional AREC meeting at Papakura on November 21. Reported in December QUA.

Two stations (ZL1PJH, ZL1PZ) assisted with communications at a Maramarua Hill Climb on Sunday 15 December. Peter

How do we contend with vandalism?

Here is an elaboration of points that were made at the December general meeting.

An Auckland Council lease is preferred.

We are to find out what Council and Police can offer us in terms of security for property and persons while we remain on this site. Ted ZL1BQA emphasized that they have to supply reasonable security. David McNeill suggested a camera high on a light pole.

If we think of a big shift then Bob ZL1BBZ suggested Waiuku. Tuakau is out of the question as that is in the Waikato Council area.

Tom ZL1TO would like to know what is behind the story in 21 November County News that suggests \$3 million is set aside for development of the skatepark and Roulston Park. Lynnette ZL1LL said that \$600,000 had already been spent on the skatepark. Panuku Developments may know more.

Peter ZL1PJH suggested that we move our more valuable equipment out of the clubhouse. It was considered prudent to allow newly qualified amateurs to be given the loan of radios. Such locations can be in the use of our new hams.

NZART

It's not them

It's us

65. Portable activity day 1 January. AREC meeting 29 January. First general meeting of the year 5 February. VHF contest 8-9 February. Jock White field days station to be at back of clubrooms. Update version of FT8call.

66. BBQ meeting 20 January. VHF contest 8-9 February.

80. Committee meets 15 January. AGM 11 March. Net 3687 kHz Mondays 8pm. Contact with G4AKC, while he was 20 m bicycle mobile with ¼ wave vertical.

Red Flag Event

[Contributed by Peter ZL1PJH]

Date: 8 December 2019

Start Time: 8.45 AM

Purpose: provide emergency radio communications for an all-day, high-speed, high-octane, high-danger sport for South Auckland Car Club members and guests.
Venue: Maramarua Forest.

Parent organisation: South Auckland Car Club.

AREC members present: Peter (ZL1PJH), Mike (ham in training with Peter), Ian (ZL1PZ) Gavin (ZL1NUX), Ian (ZL1AOX), David (ZL1DK).

They're Off!

And go fast they did! Most of them came towards us with wild left and right swings, as rear wheels tried to overtake front wheels on an unstable surface. At the last moment, each car braked a little and turned up the hill. Clouds of dust billowed over us. Rocks kicked up on the corner clanged against the steel of the locked gate.

Visitors Arrive

In the few micro-seconds available to us, we tried to establish the numbers on the A4 paper sheets taped to each car. When the roar of their exhausts dropped, we radioed 'Alpha - Car 23' or 'Alpha - Car 11' back to Dave at Base. Cars went by each minute - which kept us busy recording car numbers and reporting back. While we worked at this, a number of visitors appeared behind us. They knew they could not come through the stay-locked gate so they parked their cars off to the side and stood around us to watch the rally. We turned up the radio so they knew as much as we did of what was happening. One woman told me her son was in Car 20. I could tell from his finish times that he was fast.

Red Flag Required

A message came through from Base we were to put up a red flag. Our marshal hurried out with the flag. Racing stopped. One of the cars had left Station Charlie further up the hill but had not arrived at Finish. I had been writing down each car's progress throughout the course and saw Car 20 had not yet completed the stage.

Car 20 Stopped

Messages started to come through from Base. No one in Station Charlie could see Car 20. No one at Finish could see or hear the missing car. A support car was on its way up the

A Hurried Start

I left home in Waiuku on the run, with no map to get me to the event, conscious I had only one hour to pick up Mike in Otatau and get to the pit area before the rally began. The sun barely lit the sky. I drove faster than I felt comfortable. At the Otatau intersection, David ZL1DK answered my call on 146.900. Yes, the VHF set I had screwed to the car in the dark worked okay. Yes, the event was on. I just had to get there on time.

Last Minute Instructions

My next hurdle was to find the pit area. I knew enough to turn off Highway 2 at Kopuku Road and head south. At Symes Road, a SACC sign told me to leave the tar seal for a gravel road into the forest. Before long, a pit area appeared. There was Dave with a sheaf of forms. He gave me a simplex frequency of 146.525 and placed me first in line behind the lead car on the run to the rally stations which were Alpha, Bravo and Charlie. Mike and I were going to Alpha. A Clerk of the Course instructed us that once the hill climb began we could not let anyone through the locked gate beside the station.

In the Firing Line

What did Mike and I view once we had placed the car in front of the 'stay-locked' gate? We looked down 150 metres of level gravel road with tall pine trees on either side. We knew the road to our left was a steep slope up through the forest. That meant cars coming towards us down the straight gravel lane would go as fast as they could to keep speed up the hill.

course. Then a message the support car could see Car 20 stationary. The passenger was out of the car. Nothing more for some minutes.

Everyone OK

I could see the woman who was the mother of Car 20 lean out to get a view up the course. I knew Station Charlie was too far uphill for her to see anything. Time to get more information. 'Alpha to Base. I have Car 20's mum here. Do you have status on Car 20?' There was a long pause then the support car reported 'Everyone OK'. A minute or two later Car 20 came by with a vigorous wave to his mum. A good feeling for me that the 'communication' part of our AREC coverage had done its job.

Heading Home

One more stage and the rally was over. Mike and I headed back along Highway 2. We talked antennae and meters to check them. I had a twenty dollar fuel voucher given me by Dave. A good day for everyone.

As cars round this corner, they throw up rocks and gravel which comes rollicking towards us! While this happens, we try to read the car number on each rear window. Not easy.

