

QUA FARC

Franklin Amateur Radio Club Inc. NZART Branch 10



March 2025

VOLUME 34 ISSUE 3

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.

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

QUA is sent by email to members and anyone interested.
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Next Meeting



Our next gathering will be on Tuesday 18 March at 7.30 PM in the clubrooms on 19 Stadium Drive, Pukekohe.
Topic: Jock White Field Day review

February Meeting

Our February 'Mystery Speaker' turned out to be John Grant ZL1GWE. John writes the **Monitoring Service** column in Break-In. In the November/December edition of 2024, he alluded to a story about 'rumrunners' being caught by US coast guard during prohibition. Our editor wrote to him to ask how this happened and John kindly offered to present the story via Teams at our February meeting.

The term 'rumrunners' described the smuggling of alcohol into the US by sea. Smuggling by land was 'bootlegging'. With the advent of radio, smugglers exchanged rendezvous information between ship and shore stations. Profits were so good gangs engaged in the trade could buy the best vessels and radio equipment. They also hired ex-navy and army telegraphists who enciphered messages to prevent Coast Guard listeners from ambushing the meetings. The heroine of John's presentation was Elizebeth Friedman who in the mid 1930s deciphered the codes of over 12,000 illicit Morse messages between rumrunners. Her continuing work meant rumrunners faced almost certain arrest and were forced to find other ways to smuggle alcohol.

Thanks for taking up the story idea so thoroughly, John, and presenting it so clearly.



The Treasury Department's leading cryptanalyst, Elizebeth S. Friedman, leaves her Washington, DC, home to appear in federal court, 1934.

Jock White Field Day contest

Our Jock White Memorial Field Day Contest held Saturday/Sunday 22nd & 23rd February was every bit as exciting and satisfying as we expected it to be at Gary's farm on Attewell Road in Puni. Our JWFD member operators are listed below.

NZART MEMBER OPERATORS (Name & Callsign):		SENIOR OPERATOR:
Gary Landon ZL1WGL		Tom McDonald ZL1TO
Peter Henderson ZL1PX	Trish Murray ZL1TTM	
Mike Jane ZL1UOM	Steve Doell ZL1TZP	
Durlene Griffin ZL1ULK	Ted Doell ZL1BQA	
Francois Combrink ZL4FJ	Chris Hartingh ZL1CPH	

A strong team turned out at 10 AM Saturday at the clubhouse to pack gear onto a trailer for transport to the site. This included generator, tables and chairs, transceivers, power suppliers, antenna wire, ropes and coax.

In our picture to the right, there is a question about whether we have all the equipment we need. Perhaps there is some equipment still in the clubhouse?



Left: Peter and Gary ensure the 80m antenna is untangled

Below: Peter starts a CQ memory on his electronic keyer and listens for an answer





Left: Gary and Chris perform excellent work on the barbecue, offering hot dogs served with bread or buns, with optional tomato sauce and onions at 6 pm on Saturday. Yum!

Gary and Chris repeated their superb culinary efforts at Sunday lunchtime.

Below: We tried something new this year: shared operating. In this picture, Gary calls CQ while Steve records call signs and serial numbers. Ted watches during a break from CW.



Four decades ago Ted regularly made QSOs through CW using his Vibroplex key but then dropped CW as he became interested in other areas of the hobby. This year he embarked upon a successful relearning process and you can see the result below with him swapping CQs with the best of them – and once again using his beloved Vibroplex. If you click on the image, you should see a video file of Ted's CQ.



Ted Z1BQA calls CQ at Jock White Field Day weekend

Durlene works to build the contact list



Francois makes sure the gear reaches Gary's farm



Upcoming Events: Waiuku Steel N Wheels



Waiuku Business Association run Steel N Wheels Festival every year in the month of April and it has become a very popular event. With Glenbrook Vintage Rail feeding in passengers though the day, the number of visitors can swell to many thousands.

The event brings together vintage and classic car clubs plus many community organisations like Fire, Police, St John and NZ Defence.

Franklin Amateur Radio will set up two Morse code stations at Steel N Wheels this year. One station is at Kitchener Road carpark; the other is at Waiuku Museum.

Our purpose is to promote amateur radio by offering visitors to Steel N Wheels a chance to send their name in Morse code. We believe the experience of learning your name in Morse, keying it live on air and hearing it come back to you will be a memorable one. We can't think of a better way to show how much fun amateur radio can be.

Want to try it yourself? Come on down to Waiuku on Sunday 13 April. The event will begin at 10 AM and run until 2 PM. See you there.

TEACH MORSE WITH ECHOLINK

Peter Henderson
ZL1PX
pjh@teachlit.com

In May 2024 I became aware a few people in Franklin Amateur Radio Club wanted to learn Morse. Senior member Ted ZL1BQA wanted to re-learn his code after not using his Vibroplex for four decades. Three younger members Francois ZL4FJ, Steve ZL1TZP and Steve ZL1SPR, wanted to start from zero.

To start with, I created a practice file with 5 or 6 Morse characters. [NZART](#) has an app called TeachMorse which generates Morse code audio from text files. My hope was I could play my practice file on TeachMorse over an open mike on 80 or 40M. Sadly, that plan failed. Only one student, Ted, could hear my HF transmissions. I needed a solution.

One of our senior members, Gary ZL1GAC, came to my rescue. Gary hasn't got an HF antenna but was enjoying his hobby just as much using EchoLink. All he needed to make contacts was a laptop and an EchoLink registration.

What is EchoLink? Here comes a quote from Wikipedia...

"EchoLink is a computer-based amateur radio system distributed free of charge that allows radio amateurs to communicate with other amateur radio operators using Voice over IP (VoIP) technology on the Internet for at least part of the path between them. It was designed by Jonathan Taylor, a radio amateur with call sign K1RFD. Taylor has been the system engineer and administrator since 2002."

I had some questions about EchoLink that were easily answered with some practical testing.

1. Could I be connected to multiple users? Answer: YES
2. Could I transmit continuously for 30 minutes or more? Answer: YES
3. Could I transmit recorded sound files? Answer: YES
4. Would the audio be good quality? Answer: YES

Once I registered with EchoLink I found it an easy piece of software. I gave myself 10 simultaneous connections in the **Preferences** menu to allow group participation. I also turned off the transmit time limit in the **Setup** menu. To connect to me, learners could double click my call sign. Once connected, they could hear whoever transmitted within the group.

How was I going to use EchoLink to teach my learners? My first idea was to use two computers; one to run TeachMorse as it generated Morse sounds from my text file and another to host the session live on EchoLink. My learners would hear a line of Morse characters or words which they attempted to decode and write down. After that, I read out what had been transmitted. However, I found operating two computers at the same time as running the session cumbersome and dropped the idea.

My second plan proved more fruitful. I used both computers to create an audio file. The first computer used TeachMorse to generate the dots and dashes. The second computer recorded these dots and dashes and my rendering of them to create a complete audio file of the practice session. I could run the sessions now from one PC. All I needed to do was welcome my learners to EchoLink and hit the **Play Sound File** button. After the session, I could ask learners how they thought they did.

We started practice sessions in May, meeting at 8.00 PM on Wednesday. I kept the sessions short, less than 30 minutes. At the start we couldn't cover more than a few letters so I got creative finding words that contained the letters we covered so far. This helped learners to make sense of what they heard. By July our sessions covered characters Q7Z.G09801JPW and L. Words that fitted this learning set included OWL, GOO, LOG, POW, JOG, LOOP and ZOO.

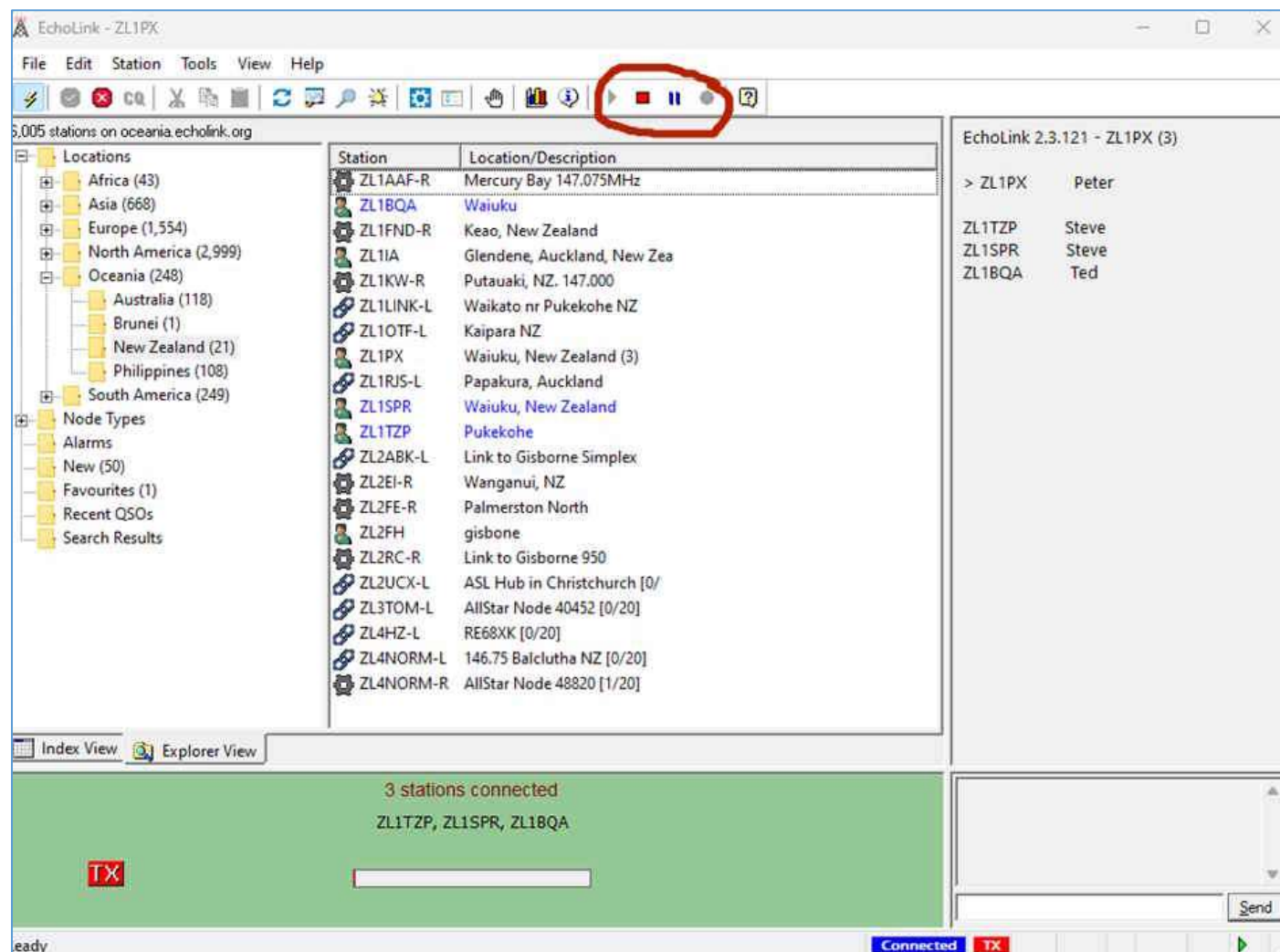
We made two changes in July. We extended our meetings to Monday and Friday and shortened the sessions to 15 minutes. After this we moved solidly towards a full alphabet - which we achieved in December. Along with an alphabet, we covered numbers 0 to 9, period, question mark and comma.

How are our radio club learners doing on CW? Senior member Ted ZL1BQA has resumed CW contacts on a daily basis using his Vibroplex. On our recent Jock White field day weekend, he achieved a solid number of Morse contacts on 40m. Steve ZL1TZP also scored contacts on field day and has started to make SOTA contacts on CW. Steve ZL1SPR encountered a significant health scare but continued to attend sessions. He remains committed to achieving CW readability this year. Francois ZL4FJ worked hard in sessions early on but was promoted from a local management position to a national role which involves travel. In his new situation he found it almost impossible to make the EchoLink logons. He is just as enthusiastic as before but has had to withdraw until work commitments change.

My thanks go to Jonathan Taylor K1RFD for creating EchoLink. His creation has enabled five members of our club to achieve significant learning targets and isn't learning new things what life is really all about?

In the picture below you see a 'live' EchoLink Morse session. Three learners are connected, Steve, Steve and Ted, so numeral 3 shows beside my call sign (ZL1PX). You can see I am running a practice sound file as **Play** is greyed out in the (red circle) audio controls.

If you would like to hear one of our practice files, click the picture below and an audio file will play. Can you copy it?



Franklin Amateur Radio Club, Pukekohe, New Zealand, EchoLink Morse Training, Wednesday 25 February, 2025, 0710 Zulu

Franklin Amateur Radio Club welcome all committed CW learners to our EchoLink Morse training. Sessions are Mon, Wed and Fri at 8 PM and last up to 20 minutes. Double click ZL1PX in EchoLink. Write down what you hear.