

QUA FARC

Franklin Amateur Radio Club Inc. NZART Branch 10



MAY 2022

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 05

President: Gary Landon ZL1WGL
Vice President: Peter Henderson ZL1PX
Secretary: Tom McDonald ZL1TO Ph. 09 238 8580
Committee Members: Mike Jane ZL1UOM, Ted Doell ZL1BQA,
Durlene Griffin ZL1ULK, Gary Collins ZL1GAC

Examiners: Peter ZL1PX, Tom ZL1TO.

Web page: www.qsl.net/zl1sa/ Webmaster: Peter ZL1PX

MEETINGS: The club meets on the third Tuesday each month, in the clubrooms, 19 Stadium Drive Pukekohe, 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome. Vax pass required.

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 (controller ZL1UOM) and 9.30 am on the 146.900 MHz repeater (first log-on becomes controller). Other 2 metre frequencies are 145.775 MHz, 146.625 MHz, and 146.900 simplex if repeaters off air.

Newsletter: Editor Peter ZL1PX pjh@teachlit.com

A copy is sent to members and clubs in the Auckland area. Sent free of obligation by e-mail to anyone interested.



Ian Sexton ZL1PZ Silent Key

It is with much sadness we report the death on Tuesday 10th May of Ian Sexton ZL1PZ. Ian has been with Franklin Amateur Radio since its beginnings and will be warmly remembered for his kindness and enthusiasm for ham radio by all the hams who knew him.

Ian's interest in radio arose while he was still in school in the 1930s. He obtained his licence on the same day war broke out, September 1, 1939. Much to his chagrin, the NZ Government immediately banned all amateur transmissions so he was unable to enjoy his hobby until after the war ended.

I first met Ian when I joined Franklin Amateur Radio Club in 2018. On my first visit, he told me that he was not that good at maths but that he had always found it easy to

read radio circuits and work out how they worked. He also told me he liked to sit in the front row during meetings so his hearing aid could clearly make out what the president and secretary spoke about.

As I learned more about electronics and began to build electronic circuits of my own, Ian would happily chat with me about my latest project or reminisce on his own early building projects. One project he was especially proud of is now in the club's possession – a completely home-built HF transceiver which offered AM, SSB and CW modes. An all-valve model, this rig was not a 'kit' but an original item, planned, designed and crafted by Ian for his personal use.

It was on the 2m nets both on Sunday mornings and for the rest of the week through the Covid 19 pandemic that Ian showed us his interest in many subjects. He loved preserving fruit and several of us left bags of feijoas at his door in autumn. He liked automobiles, discussing several times what a 'tin lizzie' had been like to drive. When the Maramarua car rallies occurred, Ian would be happy to organise a younger relative to drive him while he operated one of the course radio points – even after he turned 100. Ian also liked to play with computers. With the pandemic bringing lockdowns and with face-to-face meetings not available, he was one of the first club members to Zoom to meetings. And when the audio or video results were not what he liked, he would spend hours adjusting his computer until they met his standards.

Thank you, Ian, for your sharp mind and your humanity. If there is an upper level in heaven specially devoted to ham radio, you will already be there swapping circuits and making friends. 73 Old Friend

Ian's funeral service to be at Graham's, Tuakau on Thursday 19th May at 1.00 PM.

	<p>Minutes of Franklin Amateur Radio Club (Inc) General Meeting held at the clubhouse, Stadium Drive, Pukekohe and concurrently by Zoom on 19 April 2022</p>		<p>Minutes of Franklin Amateur Radio Club (Inc) Committee Meeting held at the clubhouse, Stadium Drive, Pukekohe on 3 May 2022</p>
<p>President Gary ZL1WGL opened meeting at 1930 hours.</p> <p>Attendance in person ZL1WGL, ZL1TO, ZL1AMQ, ZL1BGA, ZL1TZP, ZL1ULK, ZL1BBZ, ZL1LL, ZL1ERI Attendance on Zoom ZL1PX, ZL1MFL, ZL1GAC, ZL1UOM Apology: ZL1PZ Received ZL1TO / ZL1BQA</p> <p>Correspondence Arranging a submission at the Franklin Local Board. Certificate of Public Liability cover by NZART policy. Hannah Ross, Panuku, on skate park development. Received ZL1TO / ZL1ULK</p> <p>Finance Income: Subscriptions \$60 received. On-call Interest \$0.35 Expenditure: Power bill to 18 February \$48.76 paid 4 March We remain in credit with Watercare. Power bill to 18 March \$45.37 paid 4 April. Received ZL1TO / ZL1BQA</p> <p>Reports AREC: Training weekend 11-12 June, Papakura Clubrooms AREC 6825 repeater. Agreed we cannot claim ownership. Panuku Pukekohe Square 26/3 attended - ZL1TO & ZL1LL.</p> <p>General Business Presentation to Local Board, 22 March, by Tom ZL1TO. Tom's slides accepted by Local Board and listed here. Gary reported on Andy Baker's visit to clubrooms – see club news on Clubrooms Relocation below.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 2018 hours.</p> <p>Then followed a video of stories from two Liberty ship radio operators during World War 2. Transmission on Zoom originated at QTH of Peter ZL1PX.</p>  <p>Donald M Berger W4OQC describes his experience as a Morse operator on Atlantic convoys during World War 2. Click picture to see video.</p>		<p>President Gary ZL1WGL opened meeting at 1930 hours.</p> <p>Attendance ZL1WGL, ZL1TO, ZL1BQA, ZL1ULK, ZL1PX Apology ZL1GAC, ZL1UOM Received ZL1BQA / ZL1WGL</p> <p>Correspondence Inward: Hannah Ross of Panuku outlining the process with regard to skate park development. Panuku will report to the Franklin Local Board and make recommendations. Hannah Ross subsequent to Panuku meeting with Franklin Community Board. Panuku will begin investigating a possible relocation of the club. The secretary was asked to reply thanking Panuku for the update and that we look forward to further consultation. Received ZL1PX/ZL1ULK</p> <p>Finance Income: \$20, yet to be banked Expenditure: We remain in credit with watercare. Power bill to 19 April, \$52.73 due 4th May, setup for payment 2nd may The report was received and power bill payment ratified. Received ZL1BQA/ZL1PX</p> <p>General Business A form needs to be completed for Peter Henderson ZL1PX to be registered as an NZART examiner.</p> <p>ZL1TO and ZL1ULK noted their intention to enroll for June 11/12 AREC training Papakura Club.</p> <p>No decision yet on Junk Sale this yet.</p> <p>Topics for general meetings: Peter has no date for talk by Maurie ZL1UTL on model boat building. Ted working on presentation of WSPR (weak signal propagation report). We have two members studying for operator licence at present. Agreed that President will announce at general meetings that 10 minutes would be set aside for questions relating to candidates' study for the examination.</p> <p>Durlene ZL1ULK drew members attention to an article written by our local MP, Andrew Bailey, in a recent Elocal, pointing out the need to update our constitution to meet the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.</p> <p>Agreed that we continue to maintain the vaccination pass requirement at general meetings. The President will put a proposal for continuing the requirement for vaccination pass to our next general meeting.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 2105 hours</p>	

Club News

Next Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be at Franklin Amateur Radio Clubrooms, 19 Stadium Drive, Pukekohe, 7.30 PM, Tuesday 17 May. Vaccination passes are required for all attendees. You may prefer a mask but they are not mandatory.

Silent Key

Murray Greenman Z1BPU became SK last week. Murray's *Digital Modes* was a popular column in Break-In and will be hard to replace. A funeral service was held 1pm Tuesday May 3rd at St Andrews Church, 85 Queen St, Waiuku. The service was well attended and included Franklin Amateur Radio Club members Bob Holt ZL1BBZ, Ted ZL1BQA, Tom ZL1TO and Lynette ZL1LL. Members from Papakura Amateur Radio Club and a number of other radio clubs also attended.

Clubrooms Relocation

Gary ZL1GAC reported at our last general meeting that an in-person meeting was held in the clubhouse between Andy Baker (Local Board Chair) and Gary Landon, Peter Henderson, Tom McDonald and Ted Doell at 10.30 am on Thursday 14 April. This meeting was in an informal but constructive manner. The most significant outcome is that Andy suggested, and the FARC people responded positively to the idea of a shift of our clubhouse at Council expense to one of the green space sites that Pukekohe is opening up. The site suggested is in Harrington Avenue. The Panuku person involved is Richard Davison

News from Other Groups

Branch 65

Papakura Radio Club Newsletter – Gavin's content-filled newsletter asks how panspermia, modelling and the supposed death of ham radio might be related concepts. There are also stories on wireless transmission of power, ultra-efficient solar cells and a coronal mass ejection hitting the planet Mercury.

Branch 80

Hibiscus Coast Radio Society Members Update – Chairperson Jean-Philippe Diel ZL1RPL in his April presentation to the club emphasized how club membership and activities are the lifeblood of the radio society. Jean-Philippe wanted to see the club grow its awareness in the community, communicate its values and position itself as doing good in the community.

AREC

All AREC members will have received a link to the Volunteer Survey and are encouraged to complete it.

A regional training weekend is scheduled to take place on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 June at Papakura Radio Club. This training weekend is open to all AREC members.

NZ Net Straight Key Night

Straight Key Night (Winter Edition) will be held on Sunday 12 June from 8pm to 9pm on 80 metres. SKN is not a contest, but it is a great chance to dust off that straight key and let us hear what it can do.

8WPM Net

Peter Henderson ZL1PX

A few weeks ago, Garry Cottle, VK4GAZ, contacted me by email to ask for my help. Garry wanted to achieve his Centurion award in SKCC. [Straight Key Century Club](#) is a growing multinational organisation that promotes the mechanical Morse key – the key most operators used in early twentieth century telegraph rooms up and down the country. Garry had already made CW contact with 99 other SKCC members and asked me if I would be his 100th contact.

Garry assured me he would not be sending too quickly. His straight key delivery was 12 WPM – about the same speed as mine - so I agreed to his request. A few days later, on a rainy Sunday evening, I heard his call on 7032 kHz and we completed the QSO. I used my old NZ Post office key to ensure the QSO followed SKCC rules. A delighted email a few days later told me Garry had received his official Centurion certificate.

This exchange got me thinking how important it is for CW operators to be at a similar operating speed. When I first graduated from Morse school, I had to look hard to find other Morse people whom I could work. Most ops on the 80 and 40 metre bands were going like greased skateboards. Even when I sent the signal for slow (QRS) in my nervous CQs, most still replied at nearly twice my speed.

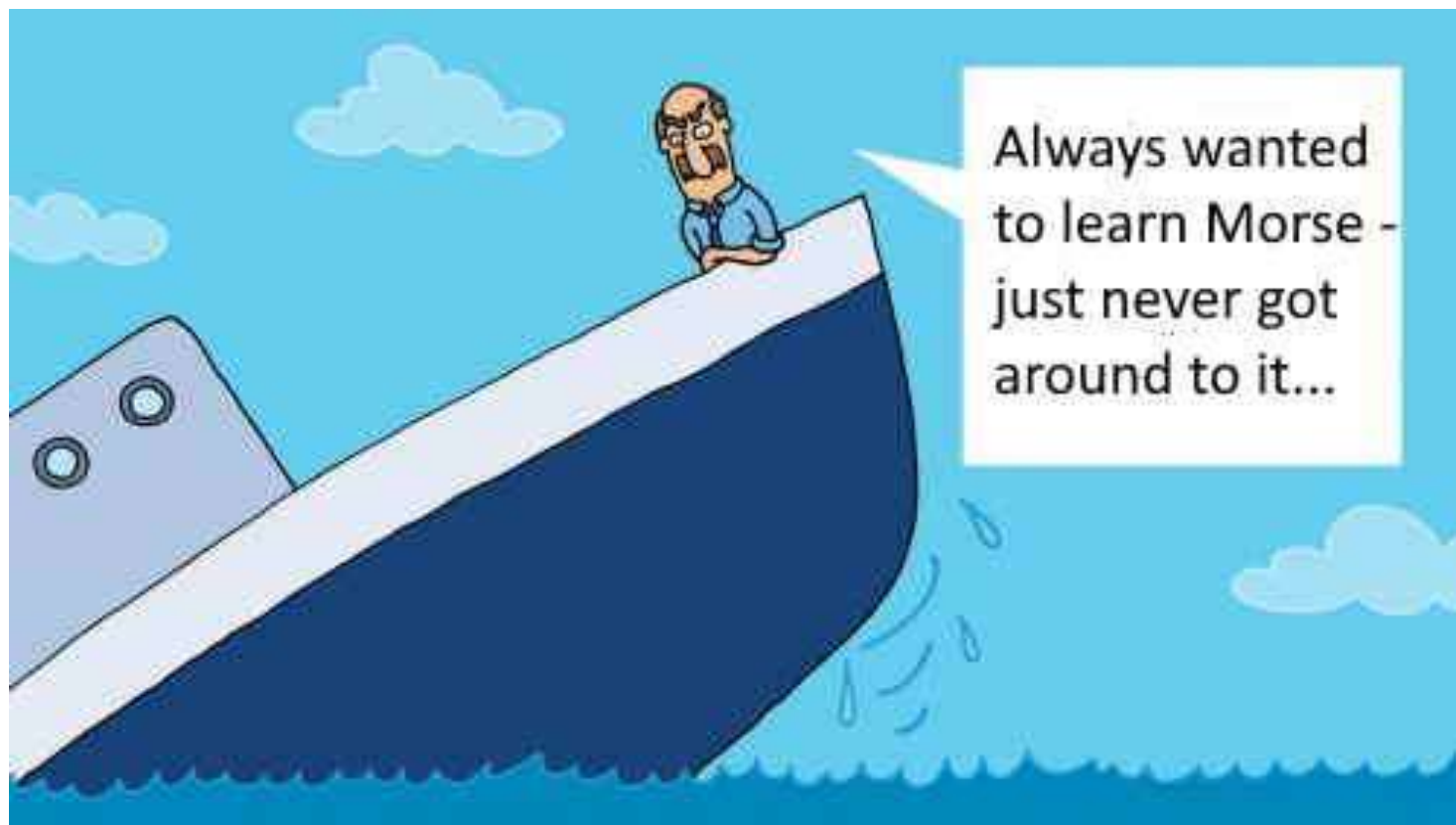
What could I do? Well, I have done something. Three weeks ago, I started 8WPM net. I emailed out to some ops I knew were at a similar level to me and asked if they would like to net. Our first session was on Wednesday 20th April at 8PM. Five of us logged in. We each sent a sentence on the topic of 'Today?' to the group. I did my best at being net controller and missed a few cues but it seemed to work.

We followed that first meeting with a second one on Wednesday 27 April. We were better prepared for this one as we followed a 'cheat sheet' I emailed everyone the weekend before. What the sheet showed members was a more structured way to check in, rather than a simple call sign. There were four of us on this net, but one member told me later that he listened to the net to make sure he got some practice at our speed so he probably should be counted. Our topic for this net was 'At School?'

Our most successful net so far was on Wednesday 4th May. For this one, we each shared something about our ham radio experience. Six members - including myself - logged in. I made the mistake of calling on one of the group to repeat his offering, but otherwise the net ran smoothly although one member reported some fade on two of the signals. That made me think how important it was that we could all hear each others' signals if we are to add more complex exchanges to our net such as question and answer sessions. To solve my problem of keeping track of logged in members, I have designed a check-in form.

What good has all this net activity achieved? I am pleased with our results so far. I know most of us can actually go faster than 8WPM and do so but that is not important. What matters is we are actively engaged in sending and receiving. We have a place we can go to every week. We are building confidence. We are creating muscle memories with our keys. Best of all we make friends with our fellow ops. And if that is not good ham radio, what is?

(8WPM runs on 3545 kHz each Wednesday at 8 PM. Email pjh@teachlit.com for topic and cheat sheet)



Morse training broadcasts can be heard each week courtesy of Papakura Amateur Radio Club on the National System, Monday 7.15, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 7.30 PM. These broadcasts are also transmitted on 3755 kHz. Currently, the broadcasts are at a text speed of 19 words per minute with Farnsworth spacing making the overall speed equivalent to 9 WPM.