

# QUA FARC

Franklin Amateur Radio Club Inc. NZART Branch 10



# OCTOBER 2023

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 10

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 ZL1UKL

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

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 in the clubrooms.

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

Nets: Sunday 9 AM on 3.700 MHz (Mike ZL1UOM) and 9.30 AM on 146.90 MHz (Peter ZL1PX). Wednesday 7.30 on DMR TG 5301 (Steve ZL1TZP).

QUA editor: Peter ZL1PX [pjh@teachlit.com](mailto:pjh@teachlit.com)  
Sent by email to club members and anyone interested. Provided you include authorship, permission to copy material is freely granted.

## Franklin Club Hosts DMR NET

Franklin Amateur Radio Club held our first DMR net this Wednesday 20 September at 7.30 PM. Steve ZL1TZP led the session. Seven members joined the net and it continued on for some time after two rounds. Our thanks go to Steve and Ted (ZL1BQA) for your inspired efforts at preparing club members for DMR.



DMR talkgroup shown as ZL area 1 - also known as TG 5301

## Last General Meeting

Ted ZL1BQA talked about antenna design at our last general meeting. He made the point that an antenna 'tuner' device does not tune an antenna. You tune an antenna by cutting it long and then shortening it until you have an SWR at the frequency you want that you can be happy with. An antenna 'tuner' can be more properly described as an 'impedance matching device' as it matches impedance between transceiver and coax cable.

## Next General Meeting

Our next general meeting will be held at 7.30 PM on Tuesday 17th October at the clubhouse at 19 Stadium Drive, Pukekohe. Steve ZL1TZP will add to our store of information on DMR radio. Also Peter and Steve have some details about a JOTA event to pass on to the club.

## JOTA Event

Bombay scout group are holding a JOTA at their den on Bombay hill on Thursday 26 October and have invited us to set up a station. We have agreed to provide CW and SSB coms for the event.

## Christmas Dinner 2023

Franklin/Papakura Radio Clubs shared Christmas Dinner is booked for Friday 1 December at Pukekohe Cossie Club. The cost is likely to be \$35.00. All welcome.

## Christmas on the Green - Pukehoke

Pukekohe Business Association are currently organising an evening community event 'Christmas on the Green' to be held Saturday 8 December between 5 and 9 PM. This offers a chance for us to showcase ham radio. More details will appear here as they become available.

## Franklin Radio Club Supports Our Community

Positive Ageing Expo was held in Pukekohe recently on Friday 29 September at the Indian Association Centre in Ward Street, Pukekohe, between the hours of 10.00 and 3.00. As this event attracts our target demographic age-group and also because a number of Positive Ageing personnel were unable to help this year, we undertook to provide as much help as we could to ensure the event could go ahead.



Pukekohe Indian Association Centre, Ward St. Pukekohe

The Pukekohe Indian Association Centre in Pukekohe is enormous – big enough to house the more than 70 community groups that attended and there were also a further 15 performing groups who entertained visitors.



Durlene ZL1ULK joined the Positive Ageing Expo committee early in the year, attended every meeting and kept the radio club well-informed on the ups and downs of developments as the event was resurrected from its pre-pandemic days. Durlene's input to the event also involved towing an enormous trailer loaded with tables and panels to and from the hall on the set up day. Here she wears the dayglo uniform of a go-fer in the Indian Association Centre on the event day.

Lynette ZL1LL assisted with setting up the Franklin Amateur Radio Club stall at the back of the hall. She was also involved in getting contact details from would-be hams on the day of the event.



Tom ZL1TO talks with Dudley from Tuakau & District Museum Society. Tom helped set up Franklin Amateur Radio Stall and engaged with visitors interested in amateur radio.

Steve ZL1TZP helped welcome visitors to Franklin Amateur Radio Club stall and got their details. Steve was able to create live ham links to USA through a DMR hotspot and radio.



Frank ZL1AMQ provided friendly support to us all by visiting Pukekohe Indian Association Hall on the day of the event.

Club President Gary ZL1WGL manned two stalls, Franklin Caravan Club and Franklin Amateur Radio Club – at different times of the day, taking down visitor details and helping with set-up and take-down duties. Cliff ZL1RP assisted Gary at the Caravan stall.



Peter ZL1PX acted as sound desk operator for MC Bill Deed and the stage performers. Peter also helped with set-up and take-down.

Our thanks go to Phil Davis who helped the club support the event on the Thursday set-up day and Friday take-down, a monumental effort. Thanks Phil.

Fred ZL1SP also came to the Indian Association Centre to offer his support to the event. Nice to see you Fred.





During a break in the stage entertainment, a shot across to the back right corner of the Indian Association Centre...



...where Tom and Steve talk with a visitor.

## Grandparents-Grandkids Net

NZ Grandparents Day is celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> October. I suggested early this year that Franklin Club hold a Grandparents-Grandkids Net as a way to bring kids and grandparents together in the radio shack. I thought 3 PM on the Klondyke repeater (146.625 MHz) might be a good meeting place and decided to use the club call sign of ZL1SA. I placed a number of ads on NZART InfoLine to seed the concept. Several people wrote emails saying they liked the idea and would love to join the net on the day.



Grandsons Dan (10) and Alex (7) practice for Grandparents-Grandkids Net.

A few months later, on Sunday 10 September, when both my grandsons were in the house, I tried a practice session. I explained on air what the event was about and had responses from a couple of hams around Auckland. The grandsons were hesitant but did talk on-air. Alex explained his grandad was the “best in the world” while older Dan said that he liked to watch Arsenal football team on TV.

A week before the event, I ran a further practice session, calling CQ from the shack. Two hams popped up, Kim ZL1KIM and Martin ZL3CK. They both thought the idea of a Grandparents-Grandkids net a good one but didn’t have access to grandkids. I added a few grandparent jokes to this session which prompted grandparent jokes back from my audience. Having some humour in the session seemed to make it run better so I decided to keep this element. I then promoted the idea on DMR TalkGroup 5301 and got a positive response there also.

Sunday 1 October came along quicker than I expected. I got up early, not able to sleep and downloaded a bunch of Grandad Jokes. After coffee, I turned on my 2M Rig and heard nearby Papakura Amateur Radio Club start their Sunday morning net. Joining them, I explained about Grandparents-Grandkids Net and Ann-Maree ZL1GIT told me she had grandkids staying overnight. She would ask them if they would like to join the net.

So, at 3 PM, Sunday 1st October, Grandparents-Grandkids Net got underway. Ann-Maree was our second Grandparent, after myself, to check in. Her grandchildren were understandably nervous about talking on-air and didn’t participate. However, both my grandsons Dan and Alex were happy to tell her they loved playing football on Saturday mornings at their local club. They were also excited that they were going on holiday to Japan with their parents the

following day. Ann-Maree was gracious in her reply saying they must be very excited about their trip to Japan.

The next caller, Stuart ZL1UU, explained he didn’t have grandchildren with him but wanted to respond to Dan and Alex. I thought he gave his age at 102 years of age. Both boys’ faces lit up when he told them they were doing well on the radio for a first time.

Next to come was Gary ZL1WGL. Gary explained his grandchildren were a little young to talk on the radio but might come up in a year or so. Gary said he liked to watch football on TV. Dan replied that his favourite team to watch was Arsenal Football Club in the UK. Stuart then came on again to say I got his age wrong on the previous over. He was 92, not 102.

Tom ZL1TO was our final caller. There were wide smiles from both boys as he told them they had done well on their first radio contact.



October 1: Grandparents-Grandkids Net at 3PM on Klondyke Repeater (6625)

After 30 minutes of radio conversation, both boys were tiring and I ended the session. How did it go? I thought both boys unsure what to expect and held themselves back a little. They needed prompting to answer Ann-Maree and Stuart’s questions. Neither boy wanted to operate the push-to-talk button themselves, asking me to keep control of the mike. I see a steep learning curve ahead of young radio newbies. They must first learn to keep in mind what they want to say and deliver it in a single-item over. Some prompting may be needed. Perhaps a list of topics might be on display beside the transceiver. To give them some easy content, I asked them to bring along grandad jokes. Both boys brought along a joke but found it hard to remember them while the push-to-talk button was live. With more experience they could learn to relax and let the ideas in their heads spring to the surface one after the other as they need them. They will develop confidence and fluency. But Grandparent-Grandkids Net, with help from an experienced amateur, is a start.

My thanks go to Dan, Alex, Ann-Maree, Stuart, Gary and Tom for helping Grandparents-Grandkids Net get on the air.

Minutes of Franklin Amateur Radio Club (Inc) Committee Meeting  
held at the clubhouse, Stadium Drive, Pukekohe 5 September 2023

Chairperson Gary ZL1WGL opened the meeting at 1930 hours and welcomed all.

Attendance: ZL1WGL, ZL1TO, ZL1PX, ZL1BQA, ZL1ULK

Apology: ZL1UOM accepted

ZL1PX / ZL1WGL

Minutes of the August meeting.

Approved.

ZL1PX / ZL1TO

### Correspondence

Newsletters received since the report in QUA from clubs:

03: August – NZ callsign centenary challenge. DART tsunami detectors. Switching a bicolour LED.

86: Cover- Auckland Radio NZK in 1912. 80 m AM net on Mondays. Foxhunt RX and TX chips to be used in devices.

Pukekohe Disaster Resilience Group – next meeting 19 September.

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club sale 16 September. Celebrating 100 years. Market Day, Gordonton Hall 024 Gordonton Rd (S.H. 1B).

FMG – Requesting our signature for insurance at revised values. Replacement \$81983.87 and \$3255; depreciated to \$58.925 and \$1500 for clubhouse and contents. The meeting agreed to sign off these values.

Auckland Council by telephone with Jenny Young – to say Council is talking with property manager regarding our request for lease to include the driveway. On second call Jenny said property manager did not want us to have the driveway. In discussion – ZL1WGL queried our previous agreements. ZL1BQA asked about other clubs in our position? We are to let the matter hang in the meantime.

Gary ZL1GAC has written resigning from committee. He is remaining in the club and is likely to be more available when he retires from employment.

The resignation of ZL1GAC from the committee is accepted with regret. We hope he will join on the committee later.

ZL1BQA / ZL1PX

A letter in reply is to be written by the Secretary.

The correspondence report was received.

ZL1BQA /ZL1PX

Expenditure Power bill \$55.41 due 4 September approved

The finance report was received, and power bill is to be paid.

ZL1TO / ZL1PX

A water bill of \$2 is due for payment shortly.

### Reports

AREC.

A Police SAREX was held near Wellsford 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Members from Papakura and North Shore attended. ZL1TO attended the Auckland area AREC meeting on Thursday 17 August. An online training with two from Auckland Emergency Management will take place this weekend. Registration is via *Friendly Manager*.

Franklin Disaster Resilience meeting, 1730 hrs 19 September.

Positive Ageing Expo. Friday September 29.

Our desk is likely to be manned by ZL1TO, ZL1GAC and ZL1TZP; it is during school holiday. ZL1PX will be at a planning session this coming Friday.

Open Day Pukekohe Bledisloe Park

ZL1PX spoke about a plan for *Christmas on the green*; to be held on a Saturday in December. Shawna Coleman is the contact. A web site advertises the time as in the evening from 5-9pm. There will be bands, rides and so on. This is an opportunity to demonstrate the club again, – as we did at *Steel n Wheels*.

Grandparents day 1 October.

ZL1PX reported this event is on track. It will be advertised in *Infoline* again.

JOTA.

Enquiries have stopped, and we will let plans lie.

General business

Progress with DMR. ZL1BQA and ZL1TZP have asked to represent FARC in coordinating Auckland area DMR repeaters by way of a discussion group. One repeater may go on Steve's property. Plenty of radio equipment is available at a good price. Computers etc will cost around \$400 per repeater.

ZL1BQA reported that ZL1BBZ has a TS430 and 2 x TS7950s and an antenna tuner for sale.

ZL1BQA asked about the certificate for the club station. It is called a Station Licence. ZL1TO to get in touch with Debby to get the certificate; which will allow us to get a DMR registration. Debby is back at work. At the same time Tom is to ask Debby about the Incorporated Societies law changes. Steve ZL1TZP is to be Call sign Trustee for the club.

Examination

A candidate will sit the exam on Thursday 7 September, 10am at the clubhouse. Paper work comprises 9 pages. ZL1TO is to check that he has the blue ERN pages signed by Debby.

Speakers at future meetings

September – Antennas. ZL1PX wants to know about DMR hot spots – ZL1WGL has already bought one and now has to get it soldered and plugged together. – Francois ZL4FJ, Frank ZL1AMQ, Gary ZL1WGL, Peter ZL1PX and Steve ZL1TZP are all interested in DMR. Agreed the talk can be a session of questions and answers on antennas, led by Ted ZL1BQA

ZL1PX is interested in scams and warning against scams.

A reminder that there is a DMR net at 8pm on Friday evenings on TG 5301.

End of year dinner

ZL1PX reported on the offering at Waiuku Cosmopolitan club. The buffet needs minimum 50 adults (\$37 per head). For groups of 15 or more there are options on their main course menu at prices ranging up to \$34.

Gary ZL1WGL reported on a recent experience at the Working Mens Club in Hamilton. There is a big restaurant, big games rooms etc. The price was \$30 for dessert plus carvery. Seniors would have been \$20 on a smaller plate.

Lynnette ZL1LL has spoken with Martin at Pukekohe Cosmopolitan Club, and has pencilled us in for Friday 1 December. Cost is likely to be of the order of \$35 per person.

This one chosen.

ZL1WGL/ZL1PX



Peter ZL1PX has been in conversation with a lady from CW academy, who arrives here in NZ a day or two after our club meeting.

The meeting closed at 2116 hours

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Minutes of Franklin Amateur Radio Club (Inc) General Meeting  
held at the clubhouse, Stadium Drive, Pukekohe 19 September 2023

Chairperson Gary ZL1WGL opened the meeting at 1932 hours and welcomed all.  
A pause in remembrance of Nigel ZL1VEY who became silent key 3 September was observed.  
ZL1WGL acknowledged the article in QUA about Nigel.

Attendance: ZL1WGL, ZL1TO, ZL1PX, ZL4FJ, ZL1TZP, ZL1UOM, ZL1BQA, ZL1SPR, ZL1JRW,  
ZL1LL, ZL1ULK, ZL1AMQ

Apologies: ZL1MFL, ZL1GAC accepted

ZL1PX / ZL1TO

Minutes of the August meeting.

Approved.

ZL1BQA /

ZL1PX

#### Correspondence

Newsletters received since the report in QUA from clubs:

03: August – NZ callsign centenary challenge. DART tsunami detectors. Switching a bicolour LED.

03: September – (To be summarised .... Arrived earlier today 19 September)

65: Talk on history of KiwiSat 6 September. VK9LAA DXpedition Lord Howe Island 20 September to 4 October. Summits on the Air, Parks on the Air. Fake USB sticks. Locating missing flight MH370 using WSPR. Comparing Tesla battery range when fast or slow charged. Rodney 146.85 repeater on air. The Secretary was asked to check this newsletter has been forwarded to members.

86: Cover- Auckland Radio NZK in 1912. 80 m AM net on Mondays. Foxhunt RX and TX chips to be used in devices.

Pukekohe Disaster Resilience Group – a meeting was held earlier this afternoon. We split into four groups, to analyse communications, transport, health, hubs.

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club sale 16 September. Celebrating 100 years. Market Day, Gordonton Hall, 1024 Gordonton Rd (S.H. 1B).

FMG – Requesting our signature for insurance at revised values. Replacement \$81983.87 and \$3255; depreciated to \$58.925 and \$1500 for clubhouse and contents. The committee meeting agreed to sign off these values.

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Gary ZL1GAC has written resigning from committee. He is remaining in the club and is likely to be more available when he retires from employment. The resignation of ZL1GAC from the committee has been accepted with regret.

The correspondence report was received. ZL1TO / ZL1PX

## Finance

Income	Interest \$92.75 (4 August) and \$10.75 (31 August) and \$92.74 (4 September)
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Expenditure	Power bill \$55.41 for 4 September paid
	Watercare \$2 paid

The finance report was received.

ZL1TO / ZL1BQA

## Reports

AREC.

Franklin Disaster Resilience meeting, 1730 hrs 19 September.

Positive Ageing Expo. Friday September 29.

The date is during the school holiday. Our desk is likely to be manned by ZL1TO, ZL1GAC and ZL1TZP.

Phil Davis will help on the Thursday. ZL1PX is sound technician for the organisers. ZL1ULK is on the organising committee.

# Open Day Pukekohe Bledisloe Park

There is a plan for *Christmas on the Green*; to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Shawna Coleman is the contact. A web site advertises the time as in the evening from 5-9pm. There will be bands, rides and so on. This is an opportunity to demonstrate the club again, – as we did at *Steel n Wheels*. There will be more news in due course.

Grandparents day 1 October.

ZL1PX reported this event is on track. It has been advertised again in *Infoline* published 15 September.

Hopefully someone will tune up with a grandchild!

JOTA.

Marie Smolnicki is a ham and in JOTA and has shown ZL1PX how she runs her event. Wiebe Boxem would like a radio night – seeks a volunteer to help Peter; at the Bombay school. Also has gear of his father-in-law. We need to know requirements of the badge so that our effort is directed correctly.

## MOTAT

The organisers would like another event next March – like the one already had this year! MOTAT has produced a morse code machine that they will sell in their shop. Mark Vincent is the contact.

## General business

Progress with DMR. ZL1BQA reported no more progress. Auckland has only one DMR repeater. One of the two time slots may be for overseas in some time to come. Needs to be coordinated. ZL1BQA and ZL1TZP are willing to go on a committee. We await further news.

It has been agreed that the club set up a DMR net with Steve ZL1TZP net controller. Wednesday night 7:30 at is a good time, on the 5301 is the talk group.

A reminder that there is a DMR net at 8pm on Friday evenings on 530ZL. Also a portable SOTA POTA net on 530ZL Tuesdays from 7:30pm each week.

ZL1BQA reported earlier this month that ZL1BBZ has a TS430 and 3 x TS7950s and an antenna tuner for sale. (The TS430 and tuner are already sold) There have been no nibbles on TradeMe so far. Bob wants HF antennas removed – and Steve will help.



ZL1BQA asked, at the September committee meeting, about the certificate for the club station. It is called a Station Licence. ZL1TO was asked to get in touch with Debby to get the certificate; which will allow us to get a DMR registration. Debby is back at work. At the same time Tom is to ask Debby about the Incorporated Societies law changes. Steve ZL1TZP is to be Callsign Trustee for the club. Debby has advised 'Tie ho' on the Incorporated Society change – there is plenty of time and the NZART legal advisor will come up with a suggested format of rules for branches – perhaps with his \$2000 fee being shared at \$200 per club that uses the service. Debby also advised that DMR requires proof of qualification by an individual, not a club. Change of club trustee can be actioned by Debby rather than RSM.

## Examination|

Steve Spring sat and passed the exam on Thursday 7 September. His callsign is ZL1SPR.

## Speakers at future meetings

Members were asked if they have ideas for speakers and topics. Quietness ensued!!!

## End of year dinner

Lynnette ZL1LL has spoken with Martin at Pukekohe Cosmopolitan Club, and has pencilled us in for Friday 1 December. Cost is likely to be of the order of \$35 per person. Papakura Radio Club to be notified.

The meeting closed at 2025 hours



**READ ME –**

# Pukekohe calling

When London's calling, Nigel Harvey might be a little too far out of range to answer these days but, as a long-time amateur radio enthusiast, he has been at the cutting edge of communications technology for many years. Recently, JON RAWLINSON discovered that, when it comes to people connecting with people, the more things change, the more they remain the same.

"Our radio was just a receiver, but it was vital for getting the news and what-have-you – I don't think we were even delivered a paper back then... One day, it went 'phut!' but I got it going again and have been keen on them ever since."

With when Nigel Harvey first dabbled in social media, an extra gram was a promptly delivered greeting card, a face-book could only occur if one did sleep while reading a strap – that was a conversation over a game of cards and something was left to the birds.

In fact, long before the first amateur voyagers set out on the information super highway, this communications enthusiast was already a pioneer of using the wireless.

"We don't use Facebook or anything like that but we do have computers and talk with friends on Twitter now and then," he explains as I chat with him and wife, Beth, at their Pukekohe home.

"I will prove the radio, though. You get to meet plenty of new people and many of them have turned out to be great friends. It really does make the world smaller."

An enthusiast of both CB (Citizens Band) and Ham radio, Nigel joined the latter in 1973, the Auckland, New Zealand, VET club news letters of his married. The term 'Ham' is thought to have originated from a combination of all signs (HAMM, HAM and HAMM) representing some of its first users from the Pukekohe Radio Club in the USA.

Anyone can dabble in CB radio but users are more limited in terms of bandwidth they should access and they are not supposed to broadcast and repeat their messages, unlike Ham radio which is only intended for immediate public use.

"To get into Ham radio, you have to pass an exam," Nigel confirms. "If you were on the air and you heard a person's voice, they'll tell you to go off pretty quick! You have to have a licence because there's so much communication you don't want to go blocking people or getting in the way of emergency use."

Over the years he has spoken with enthusiasts from many regions. Interestingly, the list included some who, in today's terms, may be considered 'old'.

"You do get old guys, but not that many really people. When there are people like that, we just wouldn't add to them. That always seemed to do the best," he notes.

"Spending too much time in there or a screen may be a concrete to some but Beth says she's never too bothered about how much time Nigel spends with his, hers or."

"Starting learning from [Pukekohe] didn't have too much time and although we're now retired, he still spends only an average of an hour or so a day," she confirms. The couple doesn't let it run his life.

Nigel's best lifelong passion for "having the smallest finger when radio was king."

"When I was growing up, way out in the country, I'm a farm boy. To make our radio was just a receiver, but it was vital for getting the news and when we had a car – I don't think we were even delivered a paper back then," he says. "One day, it went 'phut!' but I got it going again and have been keen on them ever since."

After the family moved to Browne Bay, he never forgot to download the news. Nigel did his bit by joining the AEC (Auckland Emergency Corps) where he learned to fix Tiger Mark II radios during the Second World War. He says radio was a vital tool in the air and for the military in general.

"When Japan bombed Darwin, this called up as many young fellows as they could. I was still too young so I had to get permission from my parents to go overseas (to Australia). We were based at a huge, redstone near Cairns. I never saw any action service but we were kept very busy."

When the war ended, Nigel had no further inclination to continue flying through the air but his passion for communicating just didn't really let go off.

"I got out of the Air Force as quick as I could. That's why we were sent to

lighten and lighten in Europe and they told me to get the hell out of it! I never went flying again after that," he recalls. "I always wanted to be a pilot but I started working towards that, however, after the war, radio technology flew ahead and there were a lot of us sitting out around so there was no shortage of people to talk to."

From 1954-60 Nigel's family ran the Pukekohe General Store. During this time he met Beth (whose would say approximately) on a blind date.

"While we were in Pukekohe, I met several people who were also keen on amateur radio. I found it fascinating after Beth and I married, we bought our first farm in Pukekohe and that's when I really got my own radio going."

Although Pukekohe isn't far from Auckland, during the couple's early years on the farm, Nigel says his radio (first, CB and later Ham) helped him contend with the sense of isolation many rural people experienced.

"I even connected up an old set so we could use it in a remote launch we had at the time – we used to go out to Great Barrier Island and all over the place. A good radio is one of the most important pieces of kit on a boat; if you get into trouble, it can be the difference between life and death."

Nigel and Beth have now left farm life behind, leaving their land to a neighbour in the 1990s before selling and moving to Pukekohe last year.

2013 VET may now be broadcasting from a newer location but Nigel's zeal for sharing the power on air is far from new and old.

"In Pukekohe I had a big tower that we used so I could talk to people all around the world. My range here is more limited but I am happy to put up another couple of years so I can reach Australia at least. They make some great gear these days and there are still a lot of people out there on the radio to talk to."