

# QUA FARC

Franklin Amateur Radio Club Inc. NZART Branch 10



# SEPTEMBER 2024

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 9

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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)

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## SEND YOUR NAME IN MORSE CODE



Three Morse code learners apply their skills at Museum of Transport & Technology (MOTAT), Auckland, on Sunday 18 August. Western Suburbs Radio Club member Martin ZL1MDE (bottom left) kept a record of names and times and helped visitors transmit. Franklin Amateur Radio Club member Steve ZL1TZP trained new operators on a sound generator. Big sister (right) can be seen translating her name into Morse using a chart. Middle sister is waiting her turn. Youngest sister in mauve jacket got impatient and amused herself by reaching over several times and tapping wildly on the Morse key nearest Steve - which caused a round of contagious giggling!

## Next General Meeting

Our next general meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 20 September in our clubrooms - 19 Stadium Drive, Pukekohe. Our speaker is Steve ZL1TZP. The topic is web sites available to portable activators and chasers of SOTA and POTA

## POTA – Parks on the Air

Philip ZL1PSH visited the club at our last general meeting to speak on how to encourage more QSOs from POTA parks. Philip is keen to establish a simple and easy to access scheme for those who enjoy portable radio. Philip is also keen to add a variety of new features such as volcanoes to the list of POTA sites. His research has so far discovered more than 50 volcanoes in the Franklin region.



Since his visit Philip has been working on a **Beginner's Guide for POTA Activators**. This is a comprehensive guide to POTA packed with handy tips for newcomers. Philip has made Version 1 of this guide available to us and we have made it downloadable at the link below.



After he discovered so many volcanoes in our region, Philip created a full VOTA (Volcanoes on the Air) activation and award structure. His enthusiasm bubbles out all over on this one. You can download his **Volcanoes on the Air Rules and Structure** at the link below. This will get you loading your car with radios and calling CQ VOTA!



Thank you for your visit, Philip, and thanks for bringing along Howard Buxton – a lifetime friend of the club whose cheeriness is always a tonic.

## Congratulations and Welcome

Congratulations and welcome to Simon ZL3XL who achieved his New Zealand Radio Operator's Certificate of Competency at the clubhouse on Wednesday 14 August. Simon wasted no time setting up suitable radio equipment and joined our Sunday morning 2M VHF net on Sunday 25 August. There were four club members working the net when Simon signed in, one of whom had a secondary call sign, so Simon immediately gained five of the 50 contacts needed for full participation in ham radio. We look forward to many more QSOs with you Simon.

Welcome also to Damian and Paul. New enthusiasts Damian, from Bucklands and Paul from Clarke's Beach are working the exam study materials. We looking forward to them joining our amateur radio community.

## AREC Review

Steve Main, the Upper North Island AREC manager, visited the club Saturday 24 August to help review our progress with AREC. After some handy computer work, Steve discovered how to connect with our new Panasonic screen and display a wide range of AREC criteria. While some of these criteria need work, we are fit for purpose on many others. Most criteria involved the current involvement of members with AREC exercises, training or equipment and what our AREC group saw as its likely needs in these areas.

Steve showed we currently have eight AREC members, a good number for such a small club. While this was discussed he asked if any further members could be found and two new members decided to join: Steve ZT1TZP and Peter ZL1PX. Since then both new members have had their applications approved and cards issued.

Steve informed us of a possible free or almost free Internet connection. Following this up a few days later, we found his information on Skinny Jump was essentially correct and we are investigating installing this connection. With Internet in the club house, we are in touch with a vast array of communication and learning tools that up to now were only available through someone's personal mobile hotspot. FB (FINE BUSINESS) Steve.

## AREC Training

Several of our AREC members have been invited to attend two training events in the Auckland area. The first event is **Planning an AREC operation and creating a comms plan**. This will be held Sunday 6 October between 9 and 1. The second training event is a three-day **Police Sarex (Search and Rescue) - Huna** held between Thursday 31 October and Monday 2 November.

## Upcoming Local Events

### Franklin Positive Ageing Expo

Club members are needed to help local community group Franklin Positive Ageing set up and run an annual one day event in Pukekohe Tuesday 1 October. Help is especially needed with laying electrical cable during Monday's setup.

Positive Ageing offers senior persons help to choose leisure activities for retirement age. This free event is held in the large Pukekohe Indian Community Centre in Ward Street. Usually thousands of visitors will visit so this is also a good place for us to set up a demo stall to promote the club. Tom ZL1TO and Lynette ZL1LL will take care of this.



Why do we do this? If we want community recognition of us and our hobby we have to show we are prepared to help other people with their hobbies. It's simple. We engage with them. They engage with us. We all gain.

### JOTA-JOTI

We plan to celebrate JOTA-JOTI (Jamboree on the Air – Jamboree on the Internet) this year by opening the clubhouse to scout groups in the Franklin District. This will happen on Saturday 19 October. We have approached several scout groups who are interested. They will organise to bring scouts in 90 minute batches between 10 and 4 though the day. Our thanks go to Wiebe Boxem, Scout Leader of Bombay Scout Group for his help in promoting this event within scout groups.



[Click here for JOTA-JOTI Ham Radio Handbook](#)

[JOTA-JOTI Ham Radio Handbook](#) is a fully comprehensive guide to JOTA-JOTI and ham radio. The essence of the event is that scouts talk with other scouts over ham radio

modes. Our plan is to have three modes available within the clubroom. An HF stand will offer talk with scouts in other cities in New Zealand. We will use a 40m frequency for this connection. A DMR radio will provide the chance to talk internationally. Finally, a 2M FM connection will connect with scouts at Camp Maynard on the North Shore through a local repeater.

The payoff for the club is we will be coming to the attention of scouts, their leaders and their parents in a supportive community setting. Scouts will have created a memory of doing amateur radio. Parents will see us and our clubroom as part of their town.

### Glenbrook Vintage Rail

On Labour Weekend, Glenbrook Vintage Rail will run a steam train between Glenbrook and Waiuku. Our plan is to send Morse code traffic from 'Telegraph' offices at each station. Visitors will be offered the chance to "SEND A TELEGRAM TO WAIUKU" before they board the train. When they arrive at Waiuku they collect their telegram and send back a return message. This will be on Saturday 26 October between 9.30 and 2.30.



Glenbrook Vintage Rail station, Glenbrook

Glenbrook Vintage Rail long weekend events are huge with attendee numbers increasing each year so this event showcases amateur radio before one of the biggest audiences we can get in our area. We are also setting up a practical way of getting people to engage with the main form of communication – the telegraph - used when steam trains were the ONLY form of travel for a majority of folks.

We are lucky to have some OM ('Old Man' is used as a sign of respect in CW) operate their Morse keys at this event. Neil, founder of NZ Net ZL1NZ and Paul ZL1AJY will operate from Glenbrook Station with Steve ZL1TGP and Steve ZL1APR working counter. Ops Martin ZL1MDE and Peter ZL1PX will work Waiuku with Lynette ZL1LL and Tom ZL1TO as counter attendants.

[Click to hear this Morse mock-up of Glenbrook Vintage Rail Telegraph Service.](#)

## REMOVING A TILT-OVER TOWER

Last December we were fortunate to retrieve some used ham radio gear from Bob Duncan ZL1TKQ (now SK) in Clevedon. Bob also offered us the 12 meter mast at the front of his house and we pondered how easy it would be to take it down. We decided to return later to see if we could recover it.



Tilt-over mast at Clevedon house

On Monday 9 September, we returned with heavy gear. Bob's son-in-law Wiebe also came to help. We faced a challenge. The mast comprised a 1 meter concrete block at the base and two six meter sections. You can see the bottom half of the mast in the picture below. The top half lies behind the fence on bottom left. The bottom half tilted on a base pole about 2.5 meters high.

Our first task was to detach two hinge bolts that held the mast to the base pole. The top bolt proved troublesome. Even after we pounded it through the base pole, it stubbornly refused to pop out. In the picture below, I am doing my best to not fall off a ladder while I bash the top bolt as hard as I can with a 5 pound hammer. Gary ZL1WGL gets ready to break my fall!



Happily, with a hefty number of five pound hammer blows, the pin dropped out. We took a pause to enjoy this moment.



Hinge bolt successfully removed

With the bolt out, how could we bring the mast down without it falling against the house? We opted to tether it in three directions. Two tethers went upwards to a balcony. The third went downwards to the left. With these tethers in place, we hoped to manhandle it downwards without danger to life or property.



Steve ZL1TZP and Wiebe skillfully tether down the mast. A loop at the base keeps it secure.

Our final task was to detach the base pole from its concrete base. Not easy! An inner pole ran the length of the base pole and was welded at each end. First of all Steve cut the outer skin.



Steve applies maximum cutting force to the outer skin

After Steve cut the outer skin, the base pole remained connected to its concrete base by an inner pole which was out of reach. Here you see Steve cut deeper into the outer skin while Tom and Gary feel for any movement (and find none).



Outer skin is cut but base pole does not move

Luckily, Wiebe had just the right equipment for this situation and applied his metal cutting saw to the inner skin. Within a few minutes, we had the base pole cut through and loaded on the trailer.



Wiebe cuts through an inner skin

So, thanks to everyone who took part. Once again, we find there is no challenge a determined group can't overcome.

### Personae Dramatis

**Bob Duncan** ZL1TKQ, sadly, recent Silent Key  
**Wiebe Boxem**, Bob's son-in-law and Bombay Scout Leader  
**Gary Landon** ZLWGL contributed 5 meter trailer for antenna removal  
**Steve Doell** ZL1TGP base pole cutter and tether operator  
**Tom McDonald** ZL1TO chief photographer and tether operator  
**Lynette McDonald** ZL1LL car park security officer  
**Peter Henderson** ZL1PX 5 pound hammer pounder and reporter

### Description of tilt-over mast

12m tilt-over self-supporting iron mast available. Mast is in three sections: 1. Base pole with hinge holes 2.5m, 2. Bottom 6m section with connecting brackets to allow tilt, 3. Top 6m section

Interested? We haven't decided what to do with this mast yet but if you have a strong interest in acquiring it please contact Franklin Amateur Radio Club Secretary Tom McDonald at 09 238 8580

### Description of 2m Antenna

On our removal trip to Clevedon, we also picked up a 2m Antenna. This antenna once fitted to the top of the 12m mast. It is 6 meters long and surely NZ to VK capable. If you are interested please contact our club secretary with the above details.

