

BREAKOUT *The Newsletter of the Hastings and Napier Amateur Radio Clubs*

Hastings Branch 13 NZART – Napier Branch 25 NZART

Volume 11, Issue 4, April 2013



Hastings Br
13
Club Calls
ZL2AS
ZL2QS

Napier Br 25
Club Calls
ZL2GT
ZL2G

IRLP
Node
6793
147.250

Walter Hannam. Photo: Frank Hurley.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/zl2as/>

www.zl2gt.com/blog



Join the KIWI DX Group
Talk to ZL2AL for Details

**Branch
Nets**
9.00 AM
Sunday
Morning
3615 Hz
439.175
mhz

Editor
John Newson
ZL2VAF

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Club Nights: Fourth Wednesday each month at 7.30 pm Pakowhai Hall, Pakowhai Road, Pakowhai

From the COMMANDER in CHIEF

60 years as an Amateur Radio Operator, that's pretty impressive, congratulations Lee ZL2AL. At the last Napier Br 25 meeting I was invited to say a few words on this subject but after 60 years of being on air I guess Lee has said them all hi hi. Well done.

At the last Hastings Br 13 meeting I gave a demo. of D Star, however Murphy came along and threw a spanner in the works so I'll do it again at our next meeting on 24 April. Talking of D Star I was asked to do a contra. deal by coming up on D Star to Mike N7TLL/ZL1TV on 13 April at 7am NZT. The demo. went well to the 20 + gathered with Mike.....and.....due to one member being at his golf club and not wanting to miss out, himself and several other golfers listening in as well.

D Star on the golf course, I wonder if that's been done before ? Great to have helped you out Mike.

Associated with D Star, or at least due to a visit to my shack in relation to same, Jan ZL2CZE gave my HF gear a "work out" during his visit when he caused a pile up on 20m while communicating back to Czechoslovakia recently. It was an interesting experience watching Jan using his "own" language and it probably recharged his batteries nicely. I'm sure he will borrow my shack again some time in the future.

At our next Br 13 meeting, on 24 April, 7-30pm, we will deal with the one and only NZART remit, please bring your latest Break In along.

Weed spraying and lawns done is occurring nicely from time to time, so as Pakowhai Hall tenants I'm sure we're making a good contribution, thanks and well done.

I think this will do me for now.....ah but wait, there's more.....I believe we have amongst us an owner of a new Icom HF/6m transceiver, those numbers and users of quality gear are creeping up hi hi.

73 Rob ZL2US (Pres. of Hastings Br 13/HBARC)

NAPIER BRANCH 25

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Committee Meetings: *Third Monday of the month 7pm at Club Rooms*

Club Calls: **ZL2GT, ZL2G**

Club Web Site: www.zl2gt.com/blog

Club Nights: *First Wednesday each month (except January) 7.30pm at the Club Rooms:
123 Latham Street Napier*

NAPIER NEWS.....

Greetings all. Hope all the DX hounds have got 5W0M Savai'i Island in the log, I came across him on 10 metres, unfortunately no 6 metre propagation at the time. Recent activity on 10 metres shows there is life in the current sunspot cycle yet, also worked a few VK's on 29.600 MHz FM simplex, including an ex-Napier resident Alan, ex ZL2BKM.

There is an old adage that says if it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is. It applies to radio antennas as much as anything else. There is a tendency these days to rely on the internet much more than handbooks like the ARRL Antenna Book or the RSGB Handbook. The antenna designs in the handbooks generally can be relied on, nothing fancy, just basic proven designs.

However, on the net, well, anybody can publish anything, and they do. Hams (and some manufacturers) have a tendency to insist on trying to make antennas do what they were never designed to do, and make claims about their capabilities that defy the laws of physics. I know that if I saw an ad for a little black box with a few metres of wire and a length of coax attached that the manufacturer claimed worked on all bands, with zero VSWR, and out -performed a full size dipole, I'd be a bit doubtful. One U.S. manufacturer did market such an antenna for many years, it turned out to be a short dipole with a dummy load in the middle.

Caveat Emptor and happy hamming.

ZL2TC

SEARCH FOR AN HF TRANSCEIVER

After owning a Kenwood TS430S for 29 years and having an excellent run from it I decided to lash out with a view to a replacement transceiver seeing me into retirement.....one day. Late last year the TS430 was sold on to it's next careful owner and my replacement search began. During the selling and buying time two older transceivers were pressed into service temporarily in my shack (a Kenwood TS450 and TS50) these being almost the next generations from my TS430 and essentially proved to be no better than the old TS430.

A trial of a Kenwood TS2000 (thanks David ZL2OK) was however a rig with noticeable performance increase but it seemed to me to have a couple of quirks about it that I couldn't come to terms with and a search of the operators manual was necessary on occasions.

Over time I was invited to visit a few shacks (thanks ZL2AAA, ZL2US and ZL2VM) and try respective transceivers and to this end I was given a demonstration of respective DSP performance, I was impressed.

The "brain picking" continued (thanks Bob ZL1KY, Laurie ZL2TC and others) and a surf through www.eham.com/review made (that was an interesting experience). Google got a thrashing as well. Many spec's were poured over.....and some consideration of the bells and whistles was given.

Sadly for us hams that live in town we have to live with an increasing amount of garbage on the lower bands and it's a tall order for any rig to combat that and my location is no exception. This garbage was demonstrated on 80m during visits to the shacks of ZL2AAA and ZL2VM so a visit to the rural shack of ZL2US was a breath of fresh air.

After going around in circles for a wee while I decided it was time to "get on with the decision making". After settling on a rig the process of "getting a price deal" was worked through and investigations made overseas etc.....to at least go through the process of elimination from those sources. In the end and considering warrantees and freight costs etc it became an easy matter to support the New Zealand agent. Within reason and right from the beginning I gave no consideration to the transceiver cost as I felt this may influence my selection process. When I did find out the equipment price it never changed my decision.

The rig and a couple of accessories were supplied and on arrival an appropriate viewing of the "getting going" section of the operators manual was made.....(yes I know it's rash to read the manual first instead of last but I felt that I had to do "due process" to give the equipment and myself a fair go). The first few hours were spent "driving" and playing with the receiver and learning what it could do. I can tell you that with two very minor exceptions I never had to revert to the manual to "drive" the transceiver.....I considered that to be a good thing by way of first introductions.....I never felt baffled about learning about it's abilities. After an initial "look around" on 80m I skipped up to 20m and my goodness me did I get a pleasant surprise.....I don't think I've heard 20m going like that in my shack..... ever. I've never really been active from home on 20m but the current situation spurred me into action with a few contacts over the next few days (with 100w) into VK6, VE, Canary Islands and Europe etc (I might have to start keeping a log hi hi)I might do a bit more of this hi hi. One thing that I commented to Laurie ZL2TC about was that I considered that this modern day rig performed better than the spec's portrayed, I guess this is a reflection on electronic evolution. Soon I'll get stuck into the operators manual and find out what more it's capable of but it's pretty darn good so far. So happiness reigns in the ZL2DW shack.

Oh and by the way the rig chosen was an Icom IC-7600 (HF and 6m).

73 David Walker (ZL2DW Hastings).

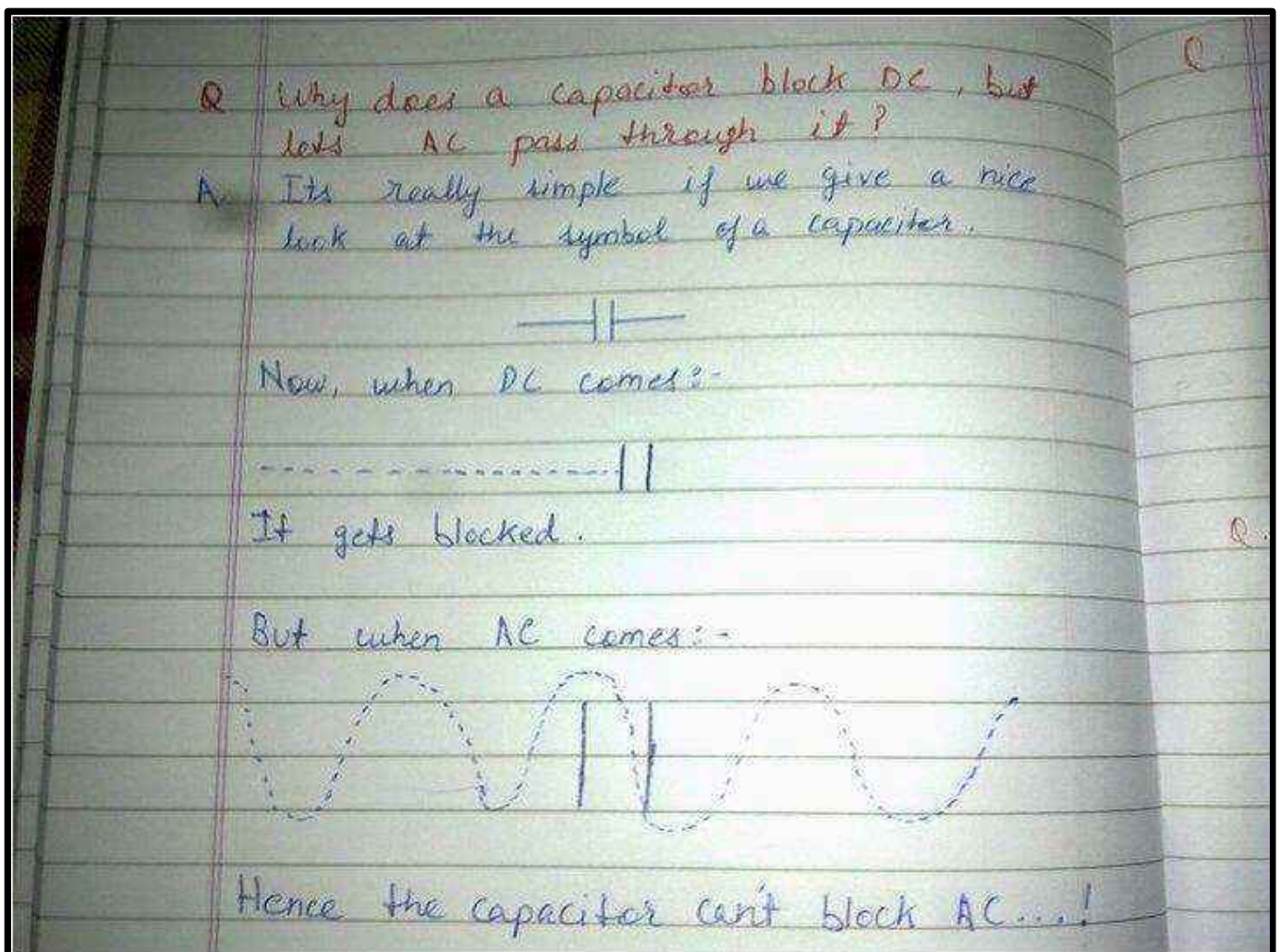
6 Metre Permits

As the ALO advised in Infoline No. 260, the bottom end of the 6 metre band (50 to 51 MHz) is to be returned to Amateurs once all Channel 1 television has ceased and the current management right for this expires in August 2015.

We have recently been in touch with RSM and they advise that:

- for areas where Channel 1 TV closes down early (e.g. in the South Island) a simplified version of the 6 metre permit system will be put in place; and
- after 01 December 2013, an arrangement will be put in place that allows all New Zealand amateurs who hold a current certificate and callsign to transmit between 50 to 51 MHz without having to make application to RSM.

Logical Explanation



Radio's polar pioneer

In the early days of Antarctic exploration, establishing reliable communications with the outside world could mean the difference between life and death. Australian Walter Hannam was one of those who led the way.

It's perhaps not a name that immediately springs to mind when thinking about the history of radio, but Walter Henry Hannam was an Australian pioneer of Antarctic radio communications during the Mawson years.

Hannam, known as 'Blubbery' because of his 101 kg weight, was the first person to establish radio communications from Macquarie Island to ships in waters around Australia and New Zealand, and to Melbourne, Sydney and Wellington.

Having gained a science diploma in Sydney, the young Hannam joined his father's gas and hydraulic engineering company. Over the next 11 years or so he acquired a lot of knowledge that would become useful to him in Antarctica.



Walter Hannam. Photo: Frank Hurley.

From 1911 to 1912 Hannam served as the wireless engineer on Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition and during this time set up and maintained the wireless telegraph system on Macquarie Island and at Mawson's base camp.

Barrels were used to unload the equipment from the research vessel *Aurora* onto Macquarie Island. Sealers provided much help and their flying fox was modified to help move the equipment. Four radio masts were floated ashore and Hannam chose the site for their erection.

For two summers and a winter Hannam was the wireless operator and mechanic at Main Base in Antarctica, where he used a Telefunken 1.5 W transmitter to send Morse code signals, but reception was only intermittent. On 25 September 1912, the first successful message was sent from Macquarie Island to the Queen's Domain station in Hobart.

A month or so later, a crew of three re-erected a mast that had been laid waste by 32 km/h winds. The following year, Sidney Jeffryes, who succeeded Hannam, modified

the radio link into a two-way system, which became reliable enough to report the deaths of Belgrave Ninnis and Xavier Mertz, along with Mawson's survival. In fact, it was Ninnis and Mertz who always came to the aid of Hannam when he wanted a radio mast guy rope replaced or some other task requiring many hands.



Hannam communicated with the outside world using Morse code. Photo: Frank Hurley.

But Hannam was more than just a radio man. In 1929, he developed a rapid electric water heater that became widely adopted. One story says that this innovation came as a result of Walter being dirty and unable to wash for four days; he disliked the feeling so much that he vowed to develop a means of quick hot water and his heater was the result.

Hannam was a strong believer in radio communications, particularly for Australia's security following World War I. He was a founder member of the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) and for a time was its secretary. He was awarded the Polar Medal in 1914 for his services in Antarctica and three small islets in Commonwealth Bay are named after him. He died in 1965 at the age of 80.



Internet Links

Thanks to ZL2UBN

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdYHljZi7ys&list=UU2bkHVIDjXS7sgrgjFtzOXQ&feature=player_embedded
and more

<http://www.engineerguy.com/>

and that is broken into

<http://www.engineerguy.com/video-series-01.htm>

<http://www.engineerguy.com/video-series-02.htm>

WANGANUI AMATEUR RADIO JUNK SALE

Returning by popular demand !!!!

Branch 48 is pleased to announce the return of their annual !
JUNK SALE

Saturday May 4th, 2013. Auction starts at 10am.

Wanganui Intermediate School Hall. Dublin St, Wanganui.

(same venue as last time)

Lots accepted from 4pm till 9.00pm on Friday 3rd & 7.30am to 9.30am Morning of the sale.

SALE CONDITIONS:

Sellers pay 15% commission with a minimum of \$1 & max of \$20 on any one item. **Accounts will be run.** (to be settled on sale day before goods uplifted)

Bids will be possible only by registered bidder number.

Bidders must register with a \$5 fee. This will also provide them with a sale catalogue. Cash, Cheque or EFTPOS accepted.

Clean out your shack and help us kick-off this iconic sale again!

Come and enjoy the social side of this old fashioned junk sale auction and help us make this an annual event again!

For further information contact Graham Hawtree ZL2AHR

PH: 06 3447501

[Licensed Auctioneer](#)

NOTICES

11 May TransTasman 80m Contest

– considering operating from BR 25 Clubroom. Make a note in your diaries.



20 July TransTasman 160m Contest

– the Tukituki Camp site is booked already. Dairy this event too. Note that there is a DIGITAL Mode section in this event. So for all those who built the PC/Rig interface units, hook 'em up at home and get some practice using FLDIGI Software.