

BREAKOUT

The Newsletter of the Hastings and
Napier Amateur Radio Clubs

Hastings Branch 13 NZART – Napier Branch 25 NZART

Volume 11, Issue 8, August 2013



Hastings Br
13
Club Calls
ZL2AS
ZL2QS

Napier Br 25
Club Calls
ZL2GT
ZL2G

IRLP
Node
6793
147.250

Branch
Nets
9.00 AM
Sunday
Morning
3615 Hz
439.175
mhz

Editor
John Newson
ZL2VAF



Castlepoint Lighthouse – location for the Lighthouse Competition

<http://www.zl2gt.com/blog/>

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



Join the KIWI DX Group
Talk to ZL2AL for Details

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

From The Lighthouse Keeper

Well I guess my highlight of recent weeks would have to be participation in the "Lighthouse Weekend", this year (again) at Castle Point, Wairarapa (and of course a good "Boys Weekend" away too). Eight of us made the trip this year and had several visitors (Steven ZL4CZ and partner etc) during the time.

The restaurant lady remembered us from previous years (for good reasons) and we were welcome back there.

On the day we were greeted with rain so decided to put our aerials up anyway.....and of course the rain stopped when we were finished.

We managed to create pile ups on 20 and 40m on occasions.

Some stat's from the weekend for us were.....worked 63 other lighthouses (there were 500 registered for the event), 750 contacts made including one to ZS (always a challenge). We also worked our friends on 20m in USA and Hawaii at our usual sched. time.

Of recent weeks, while band surfing at home, I have noticed that 18 and 28mhz have been OK but 21mhz gave variable results....there's nothing like the vagaries of HF radio propagation as most of us hams know.

Recent rain has brought about good grass growth and lambs are to be seen as well.....it's "that" time of year. I wonder if the upcoming equinoctial winds will defeat the goodness that the rain has brought.

You will have noticed that we have embarked upon some personal profiles of our members, I invite you to donate yours along with pictures if you wish. Please send them to Br 13 Secretary, David ZL2DW.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next Br13/HBARC meeting at Pakowhai Hall, 7-30pm, 28 Aug. (xyl's always welcome).

73, Rob ZL2US (Pres. Br13/HBARC, Hastings)

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*

The Latest from Napier.....

Greetings all,

spring is sprung and the grass is rising, with all the rain, that's hardly surprising.

With some fine weather coming, it's time to overhaul those antennas before the spring gales arrive.

The club has been bequeathed a tilt-over pipe mast, and a tri-band h/f antenna has been donated by ZL2ST, so the club station will soon be active on all bands. Thanks to Lee ZL2AL we also have a desk-top PC with digi modes and logging software, so we will have a contest-grade club station.

Some moron has cut down and stolen half of our 80/40 metre dipole, so that is another fix-up to be done.

December this year will see analogue VHF television gone from NZ forever after 53 years, and no more TVI problems for 6 and 10 meter operators. With a bit of life left in what has been a fairly disappointing sunspot cycle, and VHF TV gone, hopefully a lot of long-silent six metre linear amps are going to be brought back to life. For those that consider the VHF bands to be only useful for repeaters, Bob ZL3TY in Greymouth has now worked over 100 countries using only the VHF and UHF amateur bands.

Next Napier club meeting David ZL2DW will be talking about a little radio history.

That's all for now, keep on hamming.
ZL2TC

Light House Event – Castlepoint

Photos by Fergus Veitch ZLVF



Erecting the pole for the large ZS6BKW antenna

ZS6BKW is hauled up



3 Element tribander being assembled



The beam is up!

*Operating Station No. 1
FT-847 +
SB-1000 Linear*



*Operating Station No. 2
IC-746 PRO +
Kenwood TL-922 Linear*

*Operating Station No. 3
For 2 metres
and 6 metres*



Hi from Rob ZL2US and Sue ZL2DC

Here are a few photos to show you what our set up is like for Amateur Radio Transmitting & what our Business is about.

Rob has been a Ham operator for 8 years, and Sue for 3 years. ZL2US started out using his call sign ZL2RFL, but found it was difficult for some overseas operators to pick up so chose an easier option. He enjoys his radio sessions, and has learnt a lot about geography, as well as the use of different aerials, as seen in the photo's. ZL2DC on the otherhand, is not that enthusiastic, but hopes to surprise a few people by joining in the system, if she can find a space to operate.

We have been in the Battery business for 14 years now, having started out selling recharged batteries for a franchise. After a few years we ditched that and started selling new batteries, with the ULTRA brand name. Rob does all the selling, fitting & deliveries of batteries, while Sue does the bookwork, as well as working at the Hastings Hospital in the role of a Care Associate.

We have lived in Pakowhai for 30+ years, starting out with 10 acres, and are now down to 2 acres, farming aerials as well as a few sheep & chooks.

From The Battery Doctor & his Nurse.



Rob ZL2US and Sue ZL2DC and the work van

Rob ZL2US outside the workshop





Rob ZL2US in the shack

*QTH and Antenna farm of
Rob ZL2US and Sue ZL2DC*



GUEST SPEAKER at the next Br 13 meeting (28 Aug)

David ZL2MQ will give us a talk on "weak signal modes" involving Moon bounce.

You thought you new what a weak signal was.....but this will demonstrate what a true weak signal is.

Come along and hear what David has to say and how he has gone about this aspect of amateur radio.

Internet Link

East Anglian University film archives - fascinating film about Wartime Radio Interception (from Bob ZL2BDL)

<http://www.eafa.org.uk/catalogue/5108>

POTPOURRI TALK (Br25)

David ZL2DW will give a potpourri delivery of electronic related events at our next Br 25 meeting (4 Sept, 7-30pm).