

BREAKOUT

The Newsletter of the Hastings and
Napier Amateur Radio Clubs

Hastings Branch 13 NZART – Napier Branch 25 NZART

Volume 11, Issue 7, July 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



ZL2GT's magnificent rural site for the Trans-Tasman 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

CAPTAINS ON THE BRIDGE

Hibernation.....that's certainly been applicable over recent weeks during the rough Winter weather we've had. A good time to be in front of the fire/heat pump but also a good time to be in the shack.....well it would be but sadly the bands haven't been brilliant so loitering in the shack hasn't happened much.

Last month's "Donated Junk Auction" went off with a bang (but David ZL2DW tells me that there was a camera problem so we don't have any pix of the event). In excess of 120 lots were "processed" in 30 min's, a fun night for those in attendance and a few dollars for club funds.

Recently Sue, ZL2DC, and I had a weekend away in Rotorua and Tauranga. It's nice to have a break from ones routine.

Special thanks to George W9EVT who sent us a box of goodies from Dayton Hamvention, David ZL2OK and myself say thank you.

I say a special thanks to the guys from Hawaii, Washington and Denver, it's been hard work talking with you guys recently.

The International Lighthouse Weekend is coming up on 17 - 18 Aug., David ZL2OK is leading a team back to Castle Point to be active in this event.

I haven't heard N7TLL on D Star or HF recently, perhaps he's out Salmon Fishing, good luck Mike.

The next Hastings Br 13/HBARC meeting is on Wed. 24 July, 7-30pm at the Pakowhai Hall, all welcome.

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*

NAPIER NEWS.....

Greetings all,

with any luck the recent spell of fine weather heralds an early spring. The Napier Amateur Radio Club fielded not one, but two stations in the weekend Trans-Tasman Contest. Dave ZL2DW and Mike ZL2VM operating as ZL2GT from Haumoana, with crane suspended antennas, and Lee ZL2AL and Mike ZL2MY operating from the N.A.R.C. clubrooms as ZM4T. Unfortunately when we went down on the Saturday morning to rig the 160 metre antenna, we found that the local low-lives had stolen half of the 80/40 metre trap dipole. Fortunately we were able to rig a temporary substitute with the aid of Lee's spud gun. The 160 metre inverted 'L' in spite of being carefully measured out, and ground radials laid, refused to obey the laws of physics, but worked OK with an ATU. I think Lee is still scratching his head over that one. The high level of QRN on 160 metres was a bit of a damper on the contest, but a fun weekend was had by all, and there's always next year, as they say.

Nothing much else to report, a satisfactory prototype for the dual-band antenna project has been finalised, more on that in due course. Net meeting is a practical demonstration and hopefully some operator training in contest operation.

**Keep on hamming,
ZL2TC**

The Trans Tasman Contest 2013 – ZM4T



Where did the other Trap and wire element go????

Suspect Antenna

The 160M inverted L element was raised to height with a few more spud gun shots and the 3 radials were strung out around the clubhouse and surrounding park. A quick check showed that the antenna showed a very high SWR with a minor resonance at 1900 Khz. We added 6 feet to the upright "L" and it came down to 1.805 Mhz where we wanted it. The impedance was around 200 ohms with an SWR of over 5 to 1.



About 80PSI should do it Laurie!



If I can just get through that little hole in the canopy, it should exit the top

The Trans Tasman contest is a unique test dreamed up by the VKs to test how well each country can perform against the other. The rules and scoring are interesting and have many hooks. Michael ZL2MY and I decided to do the six hour Saturday night contest a few months ago. Saturday 20th July at 9Am saw us gather at the club rooms to repair the existing 80M antenna and erect a new inverted "L" antenna for 160M. Our Prez Laurie, ZL2TC showed up to help us with the antennas. Thanks Laurie! He discovered that vandals had made off with one of the 80/40M traps and most of the wire element. We decided to ignore the trap and add enough wire to make it work on 80 and replace the trap at a later date. A couple of spuds and a bit of pumping by Laurie and the spud gun fired a line over the treetops. The 80M was up and working, resonant on 3600 Khz.

Quite ridiculous! I made the decision to cut our losses and tune the beast with the antenna tuner and hope for the best. We really wouldn't know how well it worked until we were well into the contest.

Contest Start

Last minute checks were made and the contest started at 8 Pm local time. We very soon found we were leading the pack with our serial numbers. That was quite surprising as our urban noise levels were high and that combined with

some mediocre antennas should have seen us at the end of the pack. Hour two from 9 Pm to 10 Pm was the most productive and by midnight, only a few hardy ZLs were still around. It was great catching old contest friends and meeting new ones. Michael and I have never done the Trans Tasman previously



Michael Looking For Rare VKs!

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We used an adaptation of the N1MM logging program set up in the JWFD mode and simply ignored branch numbers. The VKCL program was not used as there was no CW message interface written. Our club secretary Karl, ZL1TJ dropped in for a natter around 9.30 Pm and watched the proceedings while doing some video of the station in operation.

And suddenly it was all over and it was over at 2 Am Sunday morning. Michael was into it and pulled down the 160M antenna

from the trees and rolled up the radials and considerable lengths of rope. I wonder if the neighbours were watching the crazies in the park in the middle of the night?

Summary

I looked at our QSO totals and it appears we were definitely in it. Our last S/N was 109 (with 1 DUPE) and the highest S/N we encountered was 79. There are many categories of the contest a team can enter and the scoring is rather bizarre so we really won't know how well we have actually done until the contest organizer declares the winners of the categories.

Michael and I really enjoyed the contest. It was great fun and highly recommended for next year.

73, Lee ZL2AL



That was 5W1SA!

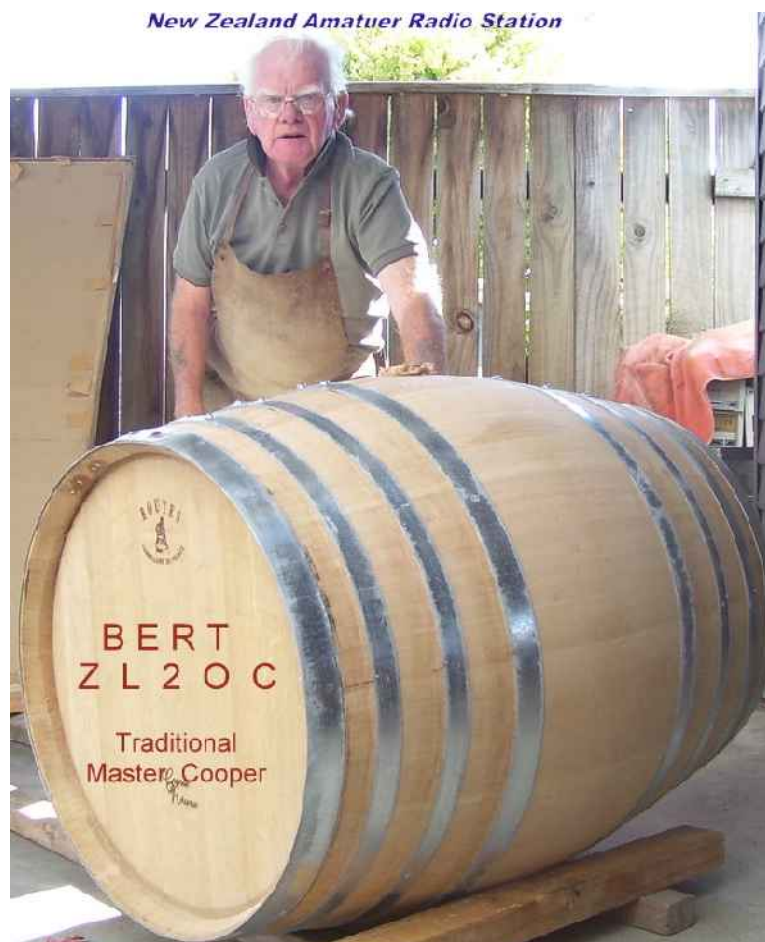
Statistics:

65 x 80M CW QSOs
5 x 160M CW QSOs
38 x 160M SSB QSOs
68 x ZLs worked
39 x VKs worked
1 x 5W DX station worked in Samoa
Groupings? – Many but haven't worked them out yet
Radio: FT1000MP Mk5
Logging: N1MM with K1EL Keyer, Heil Headset
Antennas: 80M single trap dipole and 160M Inverted L up about 15M

Bert Cunningham

Traditional

Master Cooper



Z L 2 O C

Hi my name is Bert, this is a short article about my Trade, I am a Cooper by Trade, I served a five year apprenticeship in my home town of Stirling, in Scotland.

I had a great Journeyman, who knew all there was to know about Cooperage, and he passed this knowledge on to me as I worked at his berth till my five years were complete, I then became a “Journeyman Cooper”.

The timber used for making Barrels is Oak, and there is a great variety of Oaks, over five hundred American oaks and lots more French Oak, in France the Government owned forests of Oak are carefully managed, and these trees are not felled till they are over 100 years old, and as trees are removed more are planted to replace them.

The reason Oak is most suitable for Whisky, and Wine Barrels is because the Oak has Medulary Rays that run across the staves when they are cut, this is the part of the wood that prevents the liquid from coming straight through the stave, making it a Porous stave, for this the Log of the Tree has to be Quarter sawn.

I also spent three years working in the Whisky Bond, where Casks from all over the country were stored for a minimum of three years, and some Highland Malts for up to eighteen years, my job here was to go round the warehouses checking and repairing leaking barrels, the weather plays a big part in this, as a rise in temperatures can cause the barrels to leak, also, Whisky can evaporate yearly, this is known in the trade as, "The Angels Share ."

I came to New Zealand in 1975 to work for McWilliams Wines, and after ten years with the company, they closed down, I do not make Barrels any more, but I still do repairs for Wineries.



Adzing new staves



Drawknife the high wood



Finished.

The art of “Coopering” is being lost. Today with technology, and new Machinery, the Cooper hardly touches the Barrel, the work is all done with machines, the Barrel is assembled in a machine, and passed to the next man, who does the next part, and so on down the line, and these men are “Machine Men” not Coopers, so very sad to say, Another Ancient old art Lost.



Bert Cunningham
Traditional Master Cooper.

50 years of WWVB

http://www.radiocomms.com.au/articles/61796?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=rc_1307_1&utm_content=rc

ZL2GT and the TRANS TASMAN COMPETITION

Some weeks back the build up banter began between contestants and some "stretching of the truth" was embarked upon. Prior arrangements came together on a great weather weekend and off went the ZL2GT Team to Moore Rd, Haumoana to be active in the ZL - VK Comp. on 80m cw and 160m phone.

Our crane.....yes crane, arrived early and soon after we had our Inverted Vee ant's up and going. The 30m high hook provided the support for our rope halyard and we were easily able to pull up the two ant's. The 80m ant. was suspended about 6m below the 160m ant. and was at right angles to it, we had little or no interaction between the two bands. RG213 coax fed both ant's. We were well ready with plenty of spare time.....time for a bulk package of Fish and Chips to arrive and to be enjoyed before "the business" began. Not so many participants on 160m this year and sadly we had a "standing crash" level of about S9 (see the attached radio dial pix) so this put paid to some contacts that might otherwise have been easily made.

The event adds to the experience level and we can now embark upon plans for next year.
David ZL2DW (for the ZL2GT Team)



ZL2GT "Secret Aerial"



ZL2GT rural venue



Peter ZL2LF working 80m CW



*Peter ZL2MS
working 160m
Phone*

*160m rig showing
the standing S9
ambient/continuo
us crashing*



*some of the ZL2GT
Team*

*heads down and "at it" at
ZL2GT*



Branch 25 Meeting

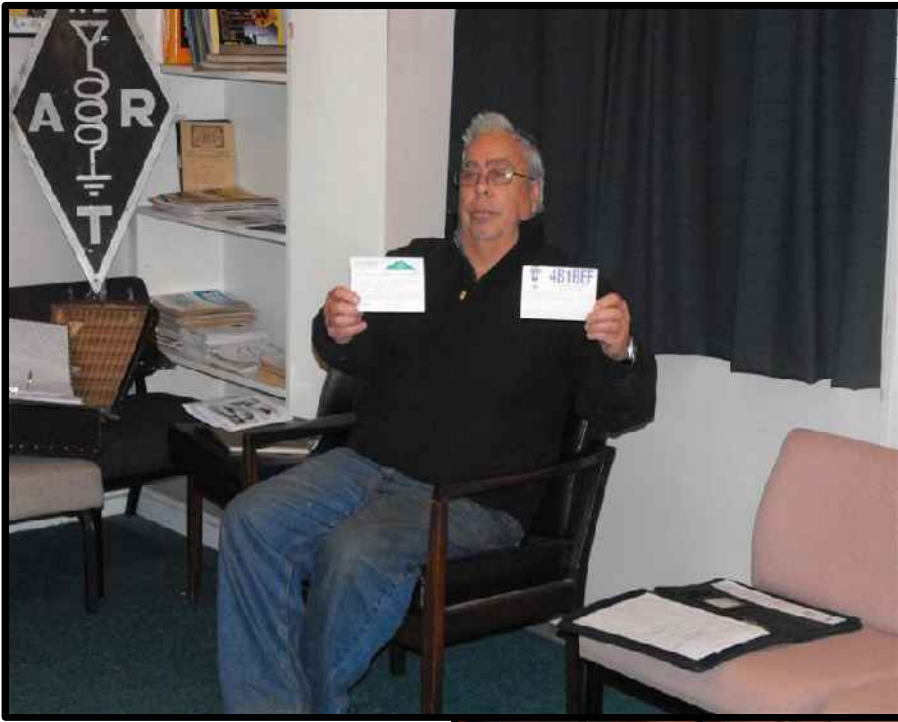


Br 25 meeting under way

Laurie ZL2TC talking about the Br25 dual band aerial prototype and project.



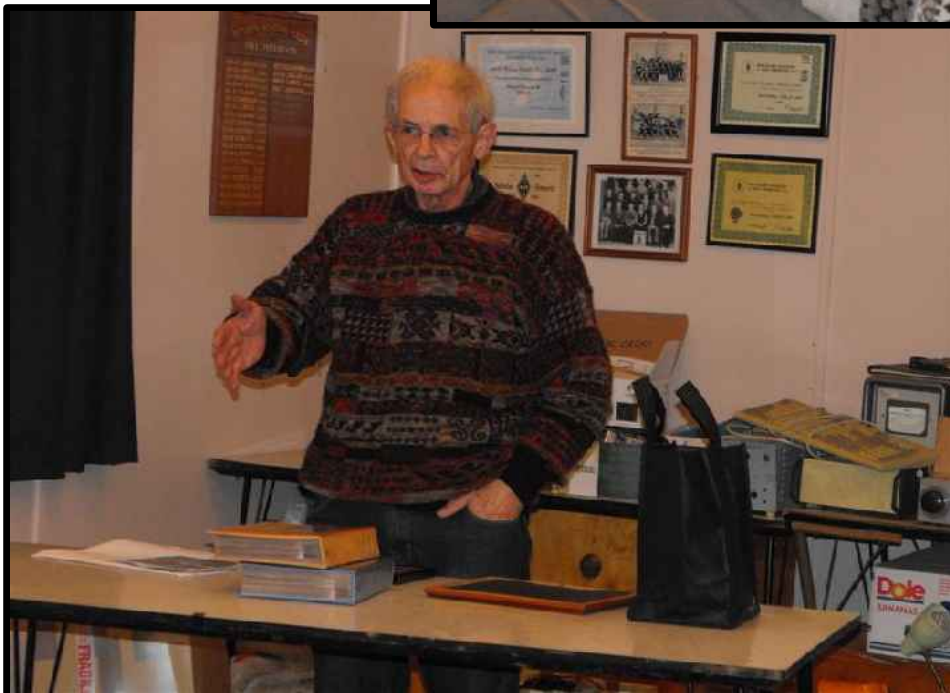
David ZL2MQ showing his "special QSL cards" (EME contacts)



Laurie showing his special QSL cards (VHF)

Stan ZL2AL showing albums of his historical QSL cards (HF) and giving a history on the subject

Stan ZL2ST showing his special QSL cards (HF)



Lee ZL2AL showing albums of his historical QSL cards (HF) and giving a history on the subject