BREAKOUT

The Newsletter of the Hastings and Napier Amateur Radio Clubs

Hastings Br 13

Club Call

ZL2AS

Napier Br 25

Club Call

ZL2GT

IRLP

Node

6793

147.250

HB DX

Cluster

ZL2AL-1

144.650

Connect

and type

"DXC"

Branch

Nets

9.00 AM

Sunday

Morning

3615 Hz

147.250

MHz

Editor

John Newson

ZL2VAF

ZL2AJ's ham shack.

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

Join the KIWI DX Group
Talk to ZL2AL for Details

Inside This Issue

Hastings Branch 13 - President's Report

Hi all.

Our next meeting will be followed by a special general meeting. Its purpose is to decide two things:

1) Whether we wish to become an incorporated society.
2) To finalise our constitution.

A sample of our constitution is attached. Please feel free to examine it and bring with you any suggestions you have for it to the SGM.

The end of July brings about the Hawkes Bay Car Club car rally. I am looking for operators to assist with this event. Please email me if you are able to assist. More info on this event elsewhere in the magazine.

Lee Jennings will be representing Branches 13, 20 and 25 at conference this year. If you have anything you wish to take to conference please forward it to Lee.

Also here is a good chance to remind everyone of a few bad habits slipping into our operation. Please always identify yourself by a callsign before making a transmission. Your callsign starts with ZL. Its not needed every over but it is needed at start of transmission - ie when placing a call etc. It is also good practise to sign off with it. Also try and leave a small gap between overs especially if on a repeater. Remember simplex is always an option. Repeaters are not the be all and end all of VHF or UHF. Some good fun and long QSO's can be enjoyed on simplex, and it does make for a good challenge.

Branch 25 Napier News...

NAPIER NOTES...

The next Napier meeting is at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 4 June at the clubrooms. We will have a report from Dunedin conference and a look at the night sky (if it is a clear night) through Tony ZL2RZ's computer controlled telescope.

At our last meeting we considered the 11 remits to Dunedin conference and instructed our delegate Lee ZL2AL. The club is part sponsoring Lee's trip along with Hastings and Manawatu Branches which Lee is also representing. We welcomed Terig ZL2TJX who has been appearing on the HF bands recently. No ham shack items were brought along to be shown and instead Laurie ZL2TC discussed the Belmont, Wellington repeaters and Lee ZL2AL described repairs to his HF linear amplifier.

The CPU in the Napier AREC Alinco DR610 VHF/UHF transceiver has developed a fault which is not economical for the club to have repaired and it will be sold. Replacement of the set is being considered.

During the last year the antennae on Kiwi Saddle Hut used for the Kaweka Challenge and other events became damaged. A proposal by Randall ZL1NW for a replacement has been accepted by the club in conjunction with the event organisers and Hastings Branch.

ZM2M is to be activated from Tangoio for the CQ WPX (prefix) CW contest on the weekend of 24/25 May by a small team.

STan ZL2ST

ACMA Proposals for 70cm

The ACMA is requesting comments on its proposals for the 400Mhz band. They would like to sell a big part of 70cms.

http://www.acma.gov.au/webwr/_assets/main/lib310649/400_mhz_discussion_paper-final.pdf

Don't wait for the WIA to wake up, send in YOUR comments now!

Hawkes Bay Car Rally 2008

Hi all. I am once again looking for volunteers to assist with the 2008 Hawkes Bay Car Rally.

Event info.
Day 1 26th July 2008 Saturday
Stage 1 Hereheretau Rd
Stage 2 Waihi / Waireka Rds
Stage 3 Cricklewood Rd
Service Wairoa
Stage 4 Hereheretau Rd
Stage 5 Waihi Waireka Rds
Stage 6 Cricklewood Rd

Day 2 27th July Sunday
Stage 7 Waitara / Pohukura Rds
Stage 8 Mohaka Forest Loop
Stage 9 Mohaka Coach Rd
Service Marine Parade
Stage 10 Triple Bridges (River stage)
Stage 11 Darky's Spur / Waipunga Rds

I require operators for Headquarters, Service Park, Start, Finish, 5k Tracking. If you are interested please let me know via email (warren@technaserve.com), along with any preference to placement you may have.
Be aware Hereheretau Rd may use HF for comms.
If you have already indicated your desire to assist with me verbally, please confirm via email.
Accomodation as usual will be available for all particularly those from outside the area.

Regards,
Warren Harris
ZL2AJ

QSLing

QSL Cards

Part of the fun of amateur radio collecting cards, called QSL cards, from other amateurs that you've talked to on the radio. Some people like to collect stamps form various parts of the world but hams collect QSLs. If you are also a stamp collector you will find that often a card comes from a distant country with an interesting stamp on the envelope.

Another reason for collecting QSL cards is to participate in the many certificate programs available to amateurs. Whether it's getting your DXCC (DX century club) for getting cards confirming contacts with 100 or more DX countries, working all states in the U.S., all provinces in Canada, or many other awards available you will need the cards to support your claim for the award.

Choosing a QSL Card

If you plan to QSL your contacts then you will need a personal QSL card such as the author's shown here. You can design your own and have a local printer produce them for you or you can order cards from one of many services you will find advertised in QST, Radio Amateurs of Canada, CQ and other magazines.

Give some thought to the content of the card and the quantity you will be ordering. Usually larger quantities are much less expensive on a per card basis.

Contents of a QSL Card

Some of the content that should be on each card is:
- your call sign
- your name and address
- a place to write
- the call of the station you contacted
- the date (use DD/MM/YY to comply with most countries). Be sure the date used is the UTC date (see note below).
- time in UTC (··Coordinated Universal Time)
- frequency or band
- mode (SSB, CW, Rtty, etc.)
- RST
- a request to QSL or thanks for a QSL received.

Some optional items you might include are:
- your station (maybe even a picture)
- your CQ and ITU zones
- the county you are in
- your grid location (primarily if you operate above 50 MHz)

Note: UTC date is the date that corresponds to the UTC time. This often causes confusion to a new ham when the UTC date is different from the local date. If, for example, you are in the Eastern time zone and UTC is 5 hours ahead of local time then at 7 PM EST the UTC changes to 0000. If the date was 01/12/2006 (Dec. 1/06) then the UTC date becomes 02/12/2006 (Dec. 2/06).

If you plan to send a lot of QSLs you might find that using a computerized logging program such as DX4Win, EasyLog, or DXBase and others can help you keep track of your contacts and also print labels for the QSL cards.

Sending QSLs

To send a QSL to an amateur you have contacted (QSO) you have two basic choices. QSL direct via the post office or send a batch of cards to your QSL bureau. Using the bureau is by far the most cost effective route but you might not want to wait for the return QSL.

QSLing Direct

To QSL direct you will fill out your QSL card and mail it the the person you contacted. Say you had a QSO with W1RTA and you would like his QSL card. First you need to find his address. This can be done by searching an online callbook such as Buckmaster or QRZ! or you can use a CD-ROM callbook from these organizations or others such as the Flying Horse callbook.

Then fill out the the card, address it (maybe use an envelope to protect it), put a stamp on and drop it in the mailbox. Usually in a few weeks you can expect a card in return.

If you are sending a card to a DX contact it is generally good practice to include a self addressed envelope and return postage. ***Do not use the postage of your country*** as it will not be valid for use in the DX country. Instead include either a U.S. dollar bill (known by hams as a green stamp) or an International Reply Coupon (IRC) which you can purchase at the post office. Us Canadians cannot use a loonie to pay for return postage as it is heavy and also subject to theft. Some countries require more than the equivalent of a dollar for postage. One example is Germany where you should send two dollars or two IRCs. And we thought our postage was expensive! Remember that DX amateurs, especially those in rare countries, get a lot of requests for QSL cards and so it is only fair to them that you provide the cost of postage.

QSL Managers

Active DX stations often use a QSL manager especially when mail to the DX country is difficult at best and non-existent at worst. Some DX stations use managers in the U.S. which makes postage less expensive. You will be aware of the QSL manager when looking up the address of the DX call or by lists published in some of the amateur magazines.

Online Help

There are many online manager lists as well. Try http://ac6v.com/callbooks.htmhttp://www.ok1rr.com/ http://www.eham.net/qslmgr/ for some references.

You send a card to a QSL manager in the same way as discussed above. A return envelope and postage is a must.

QSLing via the Bureau

Using a QSL bureau is by far the least expensive way to collect QSL cards. Most major Amateur Radio countries have a bureau where cards are collected from hams within the country and then forwarded in bulk to the destination country. Using bulk mail to send your cards to the bureau and for them to forward the cards to other countries cost much less for postage than mailing individual cards. Both RAC in Canada and ARRL in the U.S. offer QSL cards outgoing services for amateurs who are members. Incoming cards can generally be received whether or not you are a member but membership alone is worth the cost of the bureau's service.

QSL Bureau Information

More information on how to use the services offered by RAC and the ARRL may be found on the following web sites.

http://www.rac.ca/opsinfo/qsl1.htm
http://www.arrl.org/qsl/

eQSLs

A recent phenomenon in the QSL scene is the ability to QSL via the Internet. To do this you only need to go to eQSL.cc at http://www.eqsl.cc/qslcard/ and register for this free service. Using your web browser you will be able to design your own QSL card, send cards to contacts you have made and receive cards. The service also provides features for organizing cards received and creating summaries of them. Currently eQSLs are not acceptable for most awards such as DXCC.

NOTICES

Hawkes Bay Car Rally 2008

26/27 July 2008

NZART "Wine Country Conference"

Hawkes Bay 2009

Please feel free to sent notices to john.newson@xtra.co.nz

Buy – Sell - Etc

FOR SALE

Yaesu FC 901 Antenna Tuner 25,250,500W power set 160,80,40,20,15,10 Band.Used in mobile easy to set up $300.00
Kenwood MS-60 Desk Mic
up, down ,lock, PTT. Heil insert adapter for foot control. Serviced in excellent working order $300.00
IC -505 50MHz Transceiver ICOM Power lead, mic, Manual Built in Antenna $250.00
Yaesu Auto Antenna Tuner FC-30 HF/50MHz 100W works with FT 857, 100, 897, programmed to rig menu your away auto tune that SWR used works well $400.00
Patch leads x 2 manual very small in size
Puxing 2mt or 70 cem Fm Transceiver (Brand New) programmable 128 memory,VHF 5W/ UHF 4W output Power supply Desk charger,antenna ,Manual $160.00, only have one of each band left
Extras, Hand /speaker mic,$49.00 Antenna adapter $10.00,

All items can be looked By email wane.wilson@gmail.com or 0274 997109 may have to leave short message will answer all Thanks for looking ZL2WL Wane
Cash sale on pick up All Items in good working order surplus to upgrade of shack

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WANTED

 someone to contact June Stead (white stick ham) ZL2WE c/o 8762266, 207 Miller St, Hastings to put up her aerials. She has spent a while in Oz but has returned and would like to get up on the air again.

WANTED
a General coverage (0 - 30mhz) (SSB capable, with digital read out) Communications Receiver, anything considered.
Also a VHF receiver (maybe a scanner ????) to cover about 118 - 174mhz, again, anything considered.

Contact John Connell (Napier) 83598736