



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



One of the '670 dipoles at Kahuranaki, showing the heavy duty bracket/clamp and aerial to survive wind and snow etc.....not your average light duty construction.

<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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HASTINGS BRANCH 13

President: Rob Leicester ZL2US Ph 8786381
Secretary: David Walker ZL2DW Ph 8760518,
Treasurer: Peter Keong ZL2PW Ph 8774529
AREC/CD: Robert Wallace ZL2SG Ph 878 4993
AREC Deputy: Peter Stiles ZL2AK Ph 8453534

email david@apexradiocoms.co.nz
email: pkeong@xtra.co.nz
email ffonzrjw@xnet.co.nz
email: pa.stiles@xtra.co.nz

Committee: - Peter Dingley ZL2LF Ph. 843 2664
- Wally Shuker ZL2MO Ph 843 5497
- David Sullivan ZL2OK Ph 06 8578853 wk

email peter.dingley@paradise.net.nz
email ssplat@xtra.co.nz
email: bfr@xtra.co.nz

Hastings QSL Distribution: Chris Johnson ZL2VC Ph.879 5219
Magazine Editor: John Newson ZL2VAF Ph. 027 230 3642
NZART License Examiners: Lee - ZL2AL and Peter - ZL2LF
Club Call: ZL2AS and ZL2QS

email zl2vc@slingshot.co.nz
email john@thecomputerman.co.nz

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

From THE DRIVER

We're well on our way to another great Branch 13 year and Mike ZL1TV/N7TLL helped us to kick it off in Jan. with a talk at our last meeting. Mike and xyl Judy particularly enjoyed their trip to HB and hosting by David ZL2OK and myself when we took them to Pourere Beach. They said their stay at the Masonic Hotel in Napier was very good also. They return to USA on 5 March having, again, spent their Summer in Taupo.

I remind you that there is NO MEETING of Branch 13 in February, instead we will be holding an afternoon one on 1 March at 2pm when we will be hosting Debby Morgan, NZART Business Manager (see the notice elsewhere in the magazine). NZART members and non members are welcome to come along, with partners.

A day trip to Waiouru Army Museum is planned for 29 March but we will need a Van load (12 in total) at \$25 a head to make it viable, plus Museum entry fee (\$15) and lunch. Please give me your names and numbers before 21 March if you wish to come along. We will travel on the (completely sealed) Fernhill - Taihape road. If time and permission is granted we may be able to have a close up look at the aerials at the two Iirangi (Navy) radio sites also.

The Clifton accessor power supply/charger repairs have been made and all systems there are back to normal.

All bands seem to be enjoying good propagation at the moment so go and enjoy them.

73, Rob ZL2US (Br 13/HBARC President/Chairman)

PLEASE NOTE, there will be NO BR 13/HBARC MEETING in February, instead we will have an afternoon meeting for the "Debby Day" on 1 March, 2pm.

NAPIER BRANCH 25

President:	Laurie Winton	ZL2TC	843 8519	email	laurie@wilcom.co.nz
Secretary:	Karl Matthys	ZL1TJ	8454372	email	kmatthys@callsouth.net.nz
Treasurer:	Stan White	ZL2ST	845 2422	email	stan.white@clear.net.nz
AREC:	Mike Bull	ZL2VM	843 6052		

Committee:

Lee Jennings	ZL2AL	8441226	email	leez2al@gmail.com
Gary James	ZL2GAZ	843 9596	email	karen.gary@vodafone.co.nz
Michael Mullins	ZL2FAR	843 4210	email	michaelmullins@xtra.co.nz

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 ARC news....

Greetings all, bit of a quiet month for ham radio. Linking the 725 repeater to Taupo 675 has produced a bit of activity, and it gives 675 users access to the IRLP node.

Lee ZL2AL has rebuilt the donated HF tri-bander for the clubrooms with a new boom and element clamps, so that will be going up shortly.

We have a suitable venue for the Hawkes Bay hamfest in April, it will be at the McInnes Pavilion in Nelson Park, Napier. Looks like an ideal venue for the event. Among other presentations, Bob Sutton ZL1RS will be setting up his portable EME (moonbounce) station for a practical demonstration on the Saturday afternoon. Full program details on the ZL2GT web site.

Other forthcoming ham events around the country are the Te Puke junk sale at Paengaroa on March 1st, and the Wanganui junk sale in May.

Thats all for this month.
ZL2TC

I Hate Magic!

W6PUG

Did you ever have one of those occurrences in life where something really weird happens, and you use every logic you can imagine, talk to your peers and mentors, trying to figure it out, but then the problem "fixes itself" and you never really understand what just happened? I call that 'magic'. My two favorite Wikipedia definitions of magic are "*the use of paranormal methods to manipulate natural forces*" and "*attributed to extraordinary beings or objects*". Most engineers are very familiar with the variations of Murphy's Law, but even Murphy's infamous Law has some boundaries ... but not so with magic.

For almost a year, I have been deaf on 75m absolutely *stone deaf*. I have two radios, an Icom 756PIII and an old Collins 75S-1 receiver, which exhibited the same characteristics. I looked at my radio setup (which has not changed much since I first got it, and at which time 75m worked just fine). It (or whatever I chose to call it at them moment - most of which were rather uncomplimentary) behaved quite well on 15, 20 and 40, which did not help my troubleshooting direction.

I tipped my antenna over (commercial multiband vertical dipole) and went through every single connection with nothing visible. I ordered and changed the capacitor at the TOP of the antenna in my process of "Easter-egg troubleshooting" (which 'Doug-ikipedia' defines as 'I have no idea what I am looking for but I will change some parts and see if I get lucky'[which I didn't]). No change: *deaf as a stump*. I *hate* magic!

My Elmer, N7TLL/ZL1TV, had blown a cap in his antenna some time ago, and what he had learned was that resonance for 75m on that antenna shifted from 3.8MHz up to 4MHz when it blew, and told me to check that. I dragged out my AIM 4170 antenna analyzer, downloaded the latest version of software for it, spent a half day re-learning how to run the thing, swept the antenna on all of its frequencies, ran the TDR (time domain reflectometer) on the coax, and basically did not find anything too out of normal for the antenna, based on its history. Resonance on 75m is dead on 3.8MHz. *Growl ... growl ... grizzle ... groan ...* maybe a little bit of whining thrown in for good measure ... so nothing seems to be wrong with the antenna. I even called the antenna manufacturer and sent him copies of my frequency sweeps of the antenna and he offered up, "Looks good to me ..." More growling ... more grizzling *I hate magic*.

Antenna ok ...

Coax looks good....

Radio seems to be normal on all other bands.

Whiskey Tango Foxtrot?!

Gotta be magic!

Another ham friend of mine, K6YNP, who is a fairly accomplished DXer, came down from Orange County (hundred miles away) and poked and twiddled at it for a while, and could come up with nothing ... absolutely nothing ...

So I gave up and just figured I would run 15m to 40m did I say how much I hated magic?

I had just helped a ham friend of mine, who is approaching 80, put up a beautiful horizontal dipole cut for 75m so he can ragchew with friends in the evenings, and invited me to join, since I know about half

of them ... and it was with total humiliation that I admitted to him that I had never found out why I was deaf on 75m. Dogs occasionally go deaf for no definable reason other than perhaps advancing age ... wonder if I can use that excuse? No? *More growling ... more grizzling*

Finally one day I am sitting here in the shack while the XYL is traveling for work for a week, and this is just bugging me to death ... it does not go away. It nagged at me ... confusticating (confusion + frustration = confustication) me because I cannot figure out what paranormal activity has invaded my shack! My whining is now reaching a fevered pitch and the pugs are looking at me with no small hint of fear in their eyes. Maybe it was my drooling; I don't know. As an extreme variant of my Easter-egg troubleshooting (totally abandoning myself to having *no* idea what I am doing), I decide I will do a factory reset on the Icom, so I dragged out the manual on it, and it instructs to hold two buttons down and cycle the power switch. Now, the Icom is powered by an external Icom power supply, and I had developed the (bad) habit of shutting the radio off by shutting off the power supply, so I hold down my two buttons and cycled the power supply just like I always do ... and nothing happened ... no reset ... just turned itself on and same operation as before. Now I am doing a loud growl and more than a little grizzling. After trying to reset it more than a few times, it dawned on me that the instructions did not say to cycle the power; they said to cycle the power **switch!** In my last breath of hope before I swear off ham radio, I held down my two buttons and cycled the power switch - and it WORKED! The radio reset itself to factory defaults

and then it came alive on 75m

The magic gremlins woke up! In fact, the Collins also came alive (which makes absolutely *no sense* to this day)! I'm back! **WOW !!**

Here I am, in control of my shack again! I don't know what happened, or how it happed ... just *gotta* be magic! I was pretty happy about that, but it nags my very soul to not know how or why the radio got into this lockout mode and like I said, I hate magic! I sent an email to Richard VK3TXD, and went through this whole scenario with him, and lamented about how I missed almost a year of playing on 75m, and his response was classic:

"Doug, Doug, Doug. You should know that as soon as you stick a computer in a radio [and a few kind words to make me feel better but not really]What made you think it needed a factory reset? I doubt I would have considered that....."

I really wanted to go back to him with some exotic explanation of how I figured it out using some esoteric differential diagnostic process (ever watch "Dr. House" on the television?), but in all honesty, the only answer I can give him is just dumb luck based on an illogical approach to a problem that I never really understood brought on by the only thing I can find reasonable: *pure magic*.

So now that I am radio-operational, I am going to (again) tackle that computer sound card that refuses to work even though all of the diagnostics say it it working fine

I really hate magic

HASTINGS BRANCH 13 IS HOSTING A "DEBBY DAY"

Debby Morgan, (NZART Business Manager) has accepted our invite to address us and accordingly members and non members, along with partners, are invited to join us.

Saturday the 1st of March 2014 at 2pm, at the Pakowhai Hall (between Hastings and Napier). Call on '670 for directions.

After Debby's address there will be a basic BBQ and other food goodies available along with a cuppa, all for a "Gold Coin" donation at the door.

This is an opportunity to hear about the workings of NZART and to ask "the right person" some questions. Council have enthusiastically endorsed Debby's acceptance of our invite.

Some indication of numbers likely to attend would be welcome so we can deal with the catering requirements.

Looking forward to seeing many of you on the day.

David Walker (ZL2DW) (Secretary Branch 13/HBARC, Hastings)
home 06 8760518



For Sale

A local fellow has donated the items below. All proceeds will be split between our two radio clubs.

Kenwood UHF/VHF Diplexer works fine	\$40.00
GME 13.8V 11amp regulated supply	\$50.00
Homebrew 13.8 Volt 15 amp supply	\$30.00
Homebrew 0 - 20V 2 amp variable regulated supply. Has meter on front	\$20.00
Pair of Japanese Foster headphones. VGC	\$10.00
Old P&T Morse key Very good condition	\$20.00
Diawa HF/VHF (1.8 to 150 Mhz) Power meter	\$100.00
Yaesu FRG-7 Receiver (with manual)	\$90.00
2M Mobile antenna with mag mount	\$25.00

Offers considered. If they are not sold within 7 days, they will be listed on Trade-Me call me anytime on 021 0508 164 or 844 1226
73, Lee ZL2AL



For Sale

Icom 751a Icom Transceiver
ZL2US 878 6391

Branch 13 meeting on 22nd January



Mike ZL1TV addressing the meeting

Helpers involved with the "mini auction" of donated gear to Branch 13



Helper and buyer involved with the mini auction

AREC Action



The comms "trailer" at the Kaweka Marathon



ZL2AK and ZL2PG operating

The man in the middle with the jeans and the big smile has just been rescued. ZL2PG (2nd from right) was instrumental in his rescue. Adalberto was a visiting Italian who got temporarily geographically embarrassed

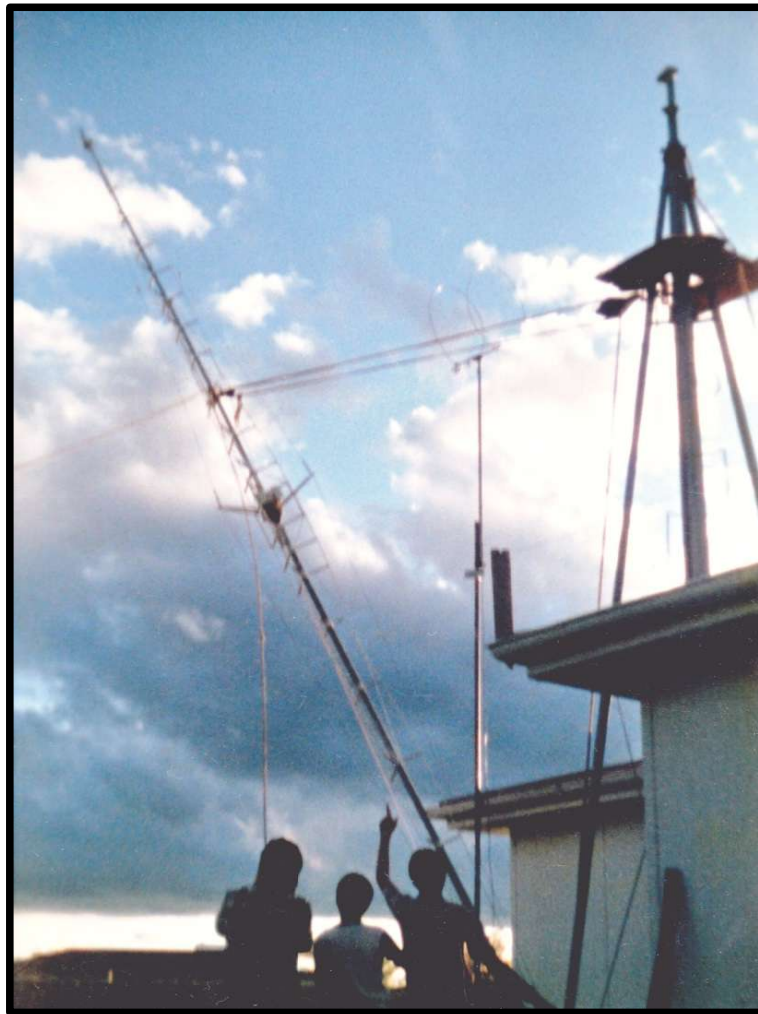


Bill Lowes ZL2UBG

How did I get into Radio, probably had an inquisitive interest in most things technical which usually led to have a go. At high school an attempt to build a broadcast receiver failed, mainly through lack of knowledge and then time, but I did learn how to bend and drill a chassis in my spare time in the workshops. Back home I decided the family needed music, the news and weather broadcasts in the kitchen - dining room, originating from the only radio we had in the sitting room at the other end of the house. I was told it won't work, so needless to say a spare speaker which was lying in the shed and had a volume control in it, some thin-ish two wire cable, and two hours later, we had a cup of tea to music with volume controllable at the kitchen end.



It was some ten years later when a shift to Hastings and Overland Transport where I had taken a job of a driver and mechanic, before I came into contact with commercial transmitters. Noel Halstead the owner had Radios fitted by Barlow Radio Communications Ltd. The Hastings - Taihape road proved not to be favourable for Radio with only three high spots with reception or transmission, Blow Hard always, Top of the Annie and Ngamatea some times. Many years later in the late 1980s after a camper van holiday in Australia using CB radio, and returning to NZ I saw an add for Radio Classes at the then Taradale Community College, run by Radio amateurs Laurie Winton, Peter Mulhare, with two attempts I passed and joined the Hastings - Havelock North Radio Club as ZL2UBG. Also Morse classes with Peter Dingley nearly got to 12 words, in hind sight I should have sat for six words but with dumb ears which preferred the sound of being tuned off frequency gave it away. HF being the realm of club Field day competitions which I really enjoyed. We tried sites at the Equestrian Park, at Ray Black's on Omahu Road, and the river gully off the road to Clifton Station's wool shed all for several years at each site and also several Scout Jota weekends. AREC with training weekends and coms. for Jet boat river sprints, Car Rallys and Kaweka mountain Challenge and some UHF-VHF field days have seen enjoyable weekends, even with being half drowned once at Kaweka Hut, so wet, some tracks with river crossings had to be closed.



Two adults & four school boys and up she goes

It wasn't long before Dick Crawley ZL2AQR with Ray Brooker ZL2KT and Frank Giles ZL2 AGI got me interested in 50mhz and I progressed from an inverted V to the home built four element quad at 45 feet which still works today. For me DX started at the end of 1986 and for 3yrs to 1989 worked VK and the pacific Islands, then the America's and Japan started and then every year those countries could be worked till 1992 when one Saturday evening at 20.10 working Gibraltar with K4,BJ,KP4,V31, PC and BZ being heard, in 30 minutes it was all over. Six meters carried on till 1994 with VK's across Australia and a few J's , then died, full stop. Happy DX on any band. When I have finished my Lowes Genealogy of Northumberland I might have time for Ham Radio again.



Fitting the four element Quad