

BREAKOUT

The Newsletter of the Hastings and
Napier Amateur Radio Clubs

Hastings Branch 13 NZART – Napier Branch 25 NZART

Volume 12, Issue 6, June 2014



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



Robert ZL2SG dealing with the trees at the Clifton HF accessor site

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

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



Join the KIWI DX Group
Talk to ZL2AL for Details

Inside This Issue

Hastings Branch 13 Report	Page 2
Napier Branch 25 Report	Page 3
The great tree clearance	Page 4
Donated junk auction	Page 5
For Sale	Page 5
Profile Peter ZL2VAF	Page 5

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

THE TOP MAN TALKS

Hello all, well I think Winter/hibernation has kicked in as I haven't spent much time in the shack lately...so hello all those overseas that I would normally talk to.....like Arnie said..."I'll be back" hi hi.

The recent Car Rally went very well and I must extend thanks to 2AAA, 2LE, 2VAF and 2ND at HQ and to the many field workers doing "the business" out on the course, it was a grand effort, thanks all round. Com's went very well which is probably a reflection on the pre event trialing of the course, radio-wise. We used a fair bit of HF this year.

Recently we've had a couple (Gary ZL2GJ and Tony ZL2UAG) of our members spending time in the HB Hospital (is it something in the CHB water hi hi). We wish you both very best wishes for a good recovery.

Last weekend (Sat. 14 June) Rob ZL2SG, David ZL2DW and myself spent several hours out at the Clifton HF accessor site clearing trees on or near the supply cable going up the hill to the site. Time and the trees had caused cable damage resulting in continuous tripping of the supply breaker not allowing site battery charging, fortunately we have substantial battery back up so were/are not caught short when we lose the mains supply. There are more tricky trees to deal with but an end is in site with the help of some beers being delivered to an upcoming "Tarzan" helper. Talking of Tarzan I can tell you that Rob ZL2SG "went out on a limb" hi hi with his efforts last Sat. but now it's time for a "real" Tarzan (sorry Rob). (See pictures elsewhere). Asap we have a plan to replace the HF aerial as that has been a problem of late, so once that has been done hopefully we can rest up for a while.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next (quick) meeting on Wed 25 June, 7-30pm, Pakowhai Hall, followed by the annual "Donated Junk Auction" (see note elsewhere).

73, Rob Leicester ZL2US, Pres/Chairman Br 13/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 CLUB NEWS.....

Hi all,
with the shortest day behind us, in a few weeks Spring will be knocking on the door, time to overhaul the antennas and think about the Spring junk sales. When I moved to Hawkes Bay I cleaned out the shack and brought almost nothing with me. Now it seems to have accumulated again, Time for another clean-out.

Dave ZL2MQ has undertaken to rebuild our VHF and UHF beacons with more modern technology, the old equipment now having been in operation for nearly 30 years.

I often get asked what the VHF and UHF beacons are for. If you are a strictly HF operator, or never venture beyond the local repeater, probably they are no use to you, but VHF and UHF beacons have two purposes. Basically it's a service to the wider amateur community. In the days when the only way to get going on 2 metres or 70 cm was to build your own gear, it was, and still is, useful to have a signal on the air that you could use to tune up receivers and converters, and test antennas. Equally useful is to have distant beacons to serve as propagation indicators. Our Hawkes Bay 6 metre beacon is often received in VK when the band is open, and most ZL VHF DX'ers regularly monitor the VK 6 and 2 metre beacons

Next Napier ARC meeting is on 2nd July, Mike ZL2VM will be talking about AREC equipment. Till then,
happy hamming,
ZL2TC

The great tree clearance (for the HF accessor)

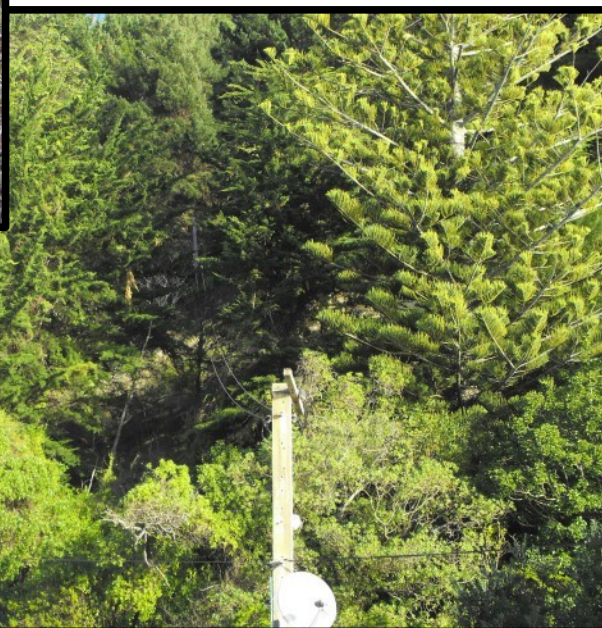
*Before
(upper pair of wires)*



Before



During (ZL2SG)



*After tree
clearance*

DONATED JUNK AUCTION (Br13/HBARC)

Donate your junk (good stuff), (not computer stuff though...unless it's really good and useful) to the up coming auction and let it turn itself into club funds bring money on the night also, I'm sure there will be a bargain or two there for you.

Please put your Lots into boxes as they're easier to handle on the night.

If anything is left at the end please take it back home with you. The Hall door will be open very early.

As usual the Auctioneer will make up the rules as he goes along and it'll definitely be a fun night.

(After a quick Br 13 normal meeting), Pakowhai Hall, 7-30pm, Wed. 25 June.



For Sale

TS180S with matching power supply for repair or parts.

Has two 2.4 Khz SSB filters and one 500Hz CW filter.

Contact ZL2AAA 876 7904



North West London, 1951

It was all my science teacher's fault! During a science class he demonstrated the magic art of crystal set making. I went home and set about building one for myself. The coil was wound on a toilet roll tube, the chassis was a small wooden box; wires were twisted together and to my amazement it worked! There was no going back.

My upstairs bedroom was transformed into a junk shop and my mother was transformed into a nervous wreck. Things got worse. While erecting an antenna, I managed to give everyone a fright after getting stuck at the top of the old elm tree at the end of the garden. Next day they had another scare when I climbed onto the house roof to attach the other end of the new antenna wire to the chimney.

In 1946 Dad had passed away as a result of the wartime service in Burma and my mother had to let out the spare room of the house to supplement her income. One young lady who worked at GCHQ and spoke Russian and possessed a Hallicrafters SX28 complete with headphones. She sometimes used to let me listen in and introduced me to a whole new world of exotic sounds and voices.

I built some one and two tube radios which never worked particularly well and which produced clouds of smoke from time to time. Mum managed to get me an interview with GCHQ and I started work as an Assistant (Scientific). I was tasked with building and testing all sorts of electronic devices, all tubes of course. I recall that one item containing about 40 tubes which was built on a 19 inch panel. Anyone who has built anything with only 4 or five tubes can imagine how much work it would be, wiring up 40 tube bases, each with nine pins, as well as working out the layout and drilling all the holes! Naturally I had no idea of what I was doing, but did learn to build things which did not smoke (much).

I saved enough money to buy an R1155 aircraft receiver and an 1132 VHF receiver so that I could do some serious listening with at home. This all came to a halt when I was called up for my two wars National Service. I was drafted into the RAF and quickly learned how to march, to salute, to fire a Lee Enfield 303 rifle and to avoid volunteering and also how to install radar equipment. I spent some leisure time (when not at the local) in the ham radio shack at the camp. It was here that I resolved to obtain my ham ticket when I was set free into the real world. After demob, it was almost ten years before I was able to get into the ham scene again. In about 1966 I was living in Lowestoft, Suffolk, married with four young harmonics and my pay as a radio / TV serviceman was not enough to indulge my hobby. I was earning some pocket money by restoring AR88's for a local Government Surplus Store and managed to acquire enough parts to build an AR88 of my own.

I was able to listen to the world better than ever before. I recall hearing quite a number of ZL and VK amateurs while having breakfast. Study at Lowestoft Technical College enabled me to pass the amateur exam. At about this time in 1975 the opportunity arose for us to start a new life here in New Zealand. When we had settled down here I realised that I was entitled to obtain a NZ licence on the strength of my UK exam.

So in Napier during 1976, Lew Sharman, ZL2IC tutored me in the dark art of Morse code. This was magic! I really enjoyed it and when my new licence appeared in the mail box, I set out to do as much CW as I could.

My first rig was a KW Viceroy TX and a Drake SSR-1 receiver with an inverted Vee on the roof. I saved enough money to buy a new Kenwood TS930S. I was a happy chappie! NZART Branch 25 beckoned and I became involved in the club's activities. Field Day was always fun! Starting their ancient one cylinder generator was a challenge despite being taught how to start generators in the RAF. Fortunately Lew ZL2IC or Stan ZL2ST usually had some beer available as a reward. A change in personal circumstances made a change of QTH necessary, and with more room on the edge of town made antenna erecting much easier. QRM and TVI became much less of a problem.

Two DXpeditions to Chatham Island in 1993 and in 1997 were great experiences. The buzz of working pile up's and the local beer was brilliant! After many years of good service the TS 930S was retired and replaced by a Yaesu FT1000D. At around this time I joined NZART Branch 13.

Amateur radio has been and still is a great hobby, One never knows what is waiting out there in radio land - every day is different. Digital radio modes are now commonplace and although the FT1000 is old by some people's standards, it still does everything I need it to do.

Smoke still comes out of home brew projects - never mind - there is always something to learn. Other activities take up time now, digital photography, theatre audio, audio editing for dance and marching teams. All a challenge at times but always fun.

Peter Dingley ZL2LF

Peter ZL2LF operating at ZL2BP Bletchley Park in the UK. It was taken in B Block before they had to move out as a result of a conflict between the BP management and other groups. Visit these links:-

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5n9eVVtKeA>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/sbell/3780142933/?rb=1>

