



Hastings
Br 13
Club Calls
ZL2AS
ZL2QS

Napier Br
25
Club Calls
ZL2GT
ZL2G

IRLP
Node
6793
147.2
50

**Branch
Nets**
9.00 AM
Sunday
Morning
3615 Hz
439.175
mhz

Editor
John
Newson
ZL2VAF



Valve final, believed to be from Opapa, HB broadcast radio station. Much of what you can see are copper cooling fins

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

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



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HASTINGS BRANCH 13

President:	Rob Leicester ZL2US	Ph 8786381	
Secretary:	David Walker ZL2DW	Ph 8760518,	email david@apexradiocoms.co.nz
Treasurer:	Peter Keong ZL2PW	Ph 8774529	email: pkeong@xtra.co.nz
AREC/CD:	Robert Wallace ZL2SG	Ph 878 4993	email ffonzrjw@xnet.co.nz
AREC Deputy:	Peter Stiles ZL2AK	Ph 8453534	email: pa.stiles@xtra.co.nz
Committee:	- Jan Suldovsky ZL2CZE	Ph 021 833 487	email jan.s@eastek.co.nz
	- Rob Shepherd ZL2AN	Ph 8440109	email robert.shepherd@vodafone.co.nz
	- Bert Cunningham ZL2OC	Ph 8448549	email bertcunningham@xtra.co.nz
	- David Sullivan ZL2OK	Ph 06 8578853 wk	email: bfr@xtra.co.nz
Hastings QSL Distribution:	Wally Shuker ZL2MO	Ph 8435497	email ssplat@xtra.co.nz
Magazine Editor:	John Newson ZL2VAF	Ph. 027 230 3642	email john@thecomputerman.co.nz
NZART License Examiners:	Peter - ZL2LF		
Club Call:	ZL2AS and ZL2QS		

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

From THE COMMANDER

Well Winter has certainly kicked in and this means less time in the shack...or perhaps more selective time in the shack.....certainly the bands have been active so no excuse for not having some good contacts.

The Pakowhai Hall committee has been meeting recently and your Branch 13 rep's have been present. Some maintenance issues have arisen and are "in hand" for a remedy.

Our next meeting is the famous Branch 13 "Donated Junk Auction".....after our normal meeting at 7-30pm, Wed 24 June, Pakowhai Hall, all welcome. Donate your junk for the auction and we'll make some funds for the club.....and bring money. We'll have the doors open early to accommodate deliveries.

After the events of the night Jon ZL1CQO will have available a small demo of his "Mesh Radio" equipment, go and talk to him over a cuppa.

After our last Br 13 meeting, with 35 + folk there, Marilyn ZL2BOA raised the issue of "name tags" as many of those attending our meetings are unknown to many others, so if you have a name tag do bring it along and wear it so others know who you are.....you may finally get to meet someone that you've talked to on air for some time but have never met.

Do keep up the input to Break Out.....our Editor can never have too many contributions. Do you need help or information about something or do you have a picture and caption you can contribute.....maybe a "Letter to the Editor", I'm sure we all have some input we can give.

Last but certainly not least I can report that Lee Jennings ZL2AL became a SK on 13 June after some recent health issues. His funeral was well attended and tribute speakers regaled us with stories about his (very full) life and achievements. Lee contributed in many ways to the local and broad ham community...but also left his own mark amongst us, thank you Lee.

73 Rob Leicester ZL2US (Branch 13/HBARC Pres.)

NAPIER BRANCH 25

President: Laurie Winton ZL2TC 843 8519 email <mailto:lauriejw@xtra.co.nz>
Secretary: Karl Matthys ZL1TJ 8454372 email karl@waspnet.co.nz
Treasurer: Stan White ZL2ST 845 2422 email stan.white@clear.net.nz
AREC: Mike Bull ZL2VM 843 6052 email rlb.mbb@xtra.co.nz

Committee:

Michael Mullins ZL2MY 843 4210 email michaelmullins@xtra.co.nz
Wally Shuker ZL2MO 843 5497 email ssplat@xtra.co.nz
Revell Troy ZL2SS 0210742837 email revelltroy@hotmail.com
Peter Breen ZL2CD 0274721527 email peterbreen@clear.net.nz

Committee Meetings: 7:00 pm, 3rd Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, November

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 Amateur Radio Club news.....

Hi all,

by now most of you will know that Leith (Lee) Jennings ZL2AL, ex VE3OE, became a silent key on 13th June. Lee was born and raised in Toronto, Canada, his parents having emigrated from Leith in Scotland prior to WW2. Lee worked for Motorola and IBM in Canada before coming to NZ in the late 1960's, to take up a career as a technical teacher in high schools. Lee was first licenced in Canada at age 15, and pursued amateur radio with endless enthusiasm ever since. Lee was a tireless advocate for amateur radio, and DX'ing in particular, and was widely known among the DX community around the world. Lee also had a great ability to motivate people, and was always ready to share his enthusiasm and technical knowledge with anybody who showed interest, as well as being a tireless worker for our own club. Lee's passing leaves a void that will be hard to fill.

On another note, our entire production run of antenna switch kits has been sold, there is one fully assembled kit left over which is available at the kit price of \$150.00. If you are interested, email me or put your hand up at the next club meeting.

That's about all for this month, next Napier club meeting is Wednesday, 1st July, meeting topic to be advised.

ZL2TC

LONG WIRE SAGA

It's some months since my last installment re "the Long Wire" however the last few months haven't been without effort. You may remember that our daughter lives on a life style block about half an hours drive west of Hastings, this means an environment free of "town noise", not withstanding some noise(s) from the nearby 11kv lines which only affect frequencies below about 4mhz.

After doing my best to harness the 100 + m. across the valley with previous LW attempts I came to the conclusion that my LW simply wasn't long enough for anything below about 14mhz....where it worked very well.

I had a requirement to be able to connect to the feed point easily and quickly (and sometimes in the dark) so "mucking about" on arrival at the site wasn't a requirement.....remember that sometimes we arrive after work.....in the dark.

I was able to mount a metal weather proof box on a post and terminate the Ant. wires on feed through insulators on the side of it.

I built a 160m half wave (centre fed) dipole by running one leg of the dipole across the valley and the other leg I mounted up on 6m high wooden poles, the whole arrangement runs East/West.

I found that I could match into this arrangement on almost all bands but 80m was not achievable due to the high impedance feed point being presented.....however with the exception of 80m the Ant. worked fine.

What to do?.....then came a light bulb moment.....use an "Off Centre Fed Dipole" (OCFD) for 160m and higher, much study ensued. The theory re OCFD's was straight forward but then came much conflicting information about how to feed it.....not all baluns are equal !!!!!

Some are better described as impedance transformers, others are choke baluns and then we get into whether they are current or voltage baluns...and 4:1 or 1:1...and so it goes on. One of the features of OCFD's is that they can suffer from "common mode current" on the coax feeder...I believe that this attribute would transform the (hopefully) vertical feeder into part of the ant. system.....not really an ideal requirement but some would have it as desirable and indeed some authors suggest a choke balun (several turns of coax) be formed about 6m down from the Ant. feed point.....but what's magic about 6m I don't know.....so some recognition by them is made of the existence of common mode current on the coax feeder.

Now faced with a half wave dipole deployed it was easy to simply reconfigure it as an OCFD, the feed point now being at the 1/3, 2/3 position instead of the centre as in a normal dipole (read up about OCFD's and you will see how this feed point on a dipole relates to nice impedances on many amateur band frequencies).

Being keen to harness the valley distance it hurt with only having 40m of wire stretching partially across it however the longer leg of the OCFD was configured to span this area and the shorter leg on the wooden poles.....all keeping me a bit happier.

After initial trials and a minor tweak of the two OCFD legs to accommodate the need for an Ant. that was more on resonance it proved that it was almost "text book" stuff. (One needs to accommodate the environment (height above ground etc) by "final site tuning" the Ant.).

Re the previously confusing feed point information, I finally resolved to connect a 4:1 current balun to the Ant. feed point terminals and feed that into my Auto Tuning Unit which in turn feeds into my 1:1 choke balun and then down 40m of RG213 coax to an SWR meter and then into my transceiver. (Please note that all my aerial matching is done at the Ant. feed point.....not in the shack). With this arrangement the coax feeder forms no part of the Ant. system and has no common mode current on it (which can transfer rf power back into your shack.....which in turn can bite you.....in more ways than one).

So with the reconfigured Ant. up and going how did it work (with my 100w only)? One comment I can make is that VK stations are hugely active on 40m, I know this as I can hear them almost any time of the day and night. I worked an Italian station at 4-30pm on 40m without any problems both ways.....and soon after a W6 on 20m (we had a great techo rag chew). At 9pm I was in a ZL group of hams having an impromptu net on 160m.....I received no one at less than S9 and could talk to them OK as well.

I have some refinements to make and to tidy up the installation but I've finally gotten to a "rock up, connect up and use it" point. Having said this I can say that while there have been some disappointments along the way it's been great fun and a huge learning curve.

Thanks for all the information given to me along the way by various hams.....and Google got a thrashing too.

David Walker (ZL2DW Hastings)



outside box showing the mocked up Ant. feed point 4:1 balun/Auto Tuning Unit/1:1 choke balun arrangement



showing the long leg of the OCFD across the valley to where the sheep are

From The London Times: A Well-Planned Retirement

A perfect example of government mismanagement.



Outside England's Bristol Zoo there is a parking lot for 150 cars and 8 buses. For 25 years, it's parking fees were managed by a very pleasant attendant. The fees were for cars (£1.40), for buses (about £7).

Then, one day, after 25 solid years of never missing a day off work, he just didn't show up; so the Zoo Management called the City Council and asked it to send them another parking agent.

The Council did some research and replied that the parking lot was the Zoo's own responsibility.

The Zoo advised the Council that the attendant was a City employee.

The City Council responded that the lot attendant had never been on the City payroll.

Meanwhile, sitting in his villa somewhere on the coast of Spain or France or Italy ... is a man who'd apparently had a ticket machine installed completely on his own, and then, had simply begun to show up every day, to collect and keep the parking fees, estimated at about £560 per day -- for 25 years.

Assuming 7 days a week, this amounts to just over 7 million pounds ... and no one even knows his name.

I think this is my favorite E-Mail ever!!

<http://www.kurzweilai.net/one-step-closer-to-a-single-molecule-device>

A 100 watt Transceiver on your wrist in you future perhaps LOL



To anyone that wants to join ZL2AS reflector

go to this web page

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ZL2as/info>

And click the button that says "Join this group"