

BREAKOUT

The Newsletter of the Hastings and
Napier Amateur Radio Clubs

Hastings Branch 13 NZART – Napier Branch 25 NZART

Volume 17, Issue 10 October 2017



Hastings Br
13
Club Calls
ZL2AS
ZL2QS

Napier Br 25
Club Calls
ZL2GT
ZL2G

IRLP
Node
6793
147.250

Branch's
13/25
Net
9.00 AM
Sunday
Morning
670
Repeater

Editor
John Newson
ZL2VAF



A Scout operating during JOTA/JOTI Weekend

<http://www.zl2gt.nz/>

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

Emergency Call-in Frequencies: 3615khz and 670 repeater



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Club Call:	ZL2AS and ZL2QS		

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

FROM THE TOP "Truck Driver"

Yes I've been doing a bit more part time truck driving and it's irregularity suits me just fine.....it leaves some time for Ham Radio.

Based on history we will have a great time at the CHB "Meal and Meeting" at Waipawa on 25 October (see the notice elsewhere). This is in lieu of our usual Pakowhai Hall venue for our General Meeting. We have gained some more Branch13/HBARC members this year from CHB...it seems to be an arrangement that suits all and probably provides continued survival and interaction of the two areas very well. Get a car pool group together and trundle down to CHB.

Most of you are aware of the "Door Prize" that we draw each meeting. This has been going on for some years now.....an idea that we picked up on from our overseas friends. The number is drawn and a match found from those registered in the Meeting "alibi" book.....this person being the winner. At the next meeting that winner provides the next "Door Prize". The prize is of their choice and there is no pressure to provide something expensive though some grand gestures have been made. We've had groceries and home made jam, petrol vouchers, electronic "junk"....all sorts. It's fun. Thank you.

November brings us the AGM. Office Bearers-wise nothing seems to change from year to year but be warned one year soon I will decline nomination if it's made.

Sometimes and eventually things need to change and new "blood" introduced to keep the club in good spirit.

On the 3 Nov. Sue and I will be joining Cruise Boat visitors (John KA4RXP etc) that are due in Napier that day. We'll probably have a light lunch somewhere and show them around a wee bit.....do feel free to join us.

Over a couple of recent presentations Errol ZL2IT has whet our appetite for VHF Direction Finding.....to the extent that he will be involved with a construction night and soon/later a true "Fox Hunt".....and BBQ. Keep an eye and ear out for more info. re this activity.

We are looking for another Examiner.....would this be an area that you'd like to contribute an input to the Branch with ? Talk to Rob ZL2US or David ZL2DW if you'd like some more info. or have questions about.

73 for now, Rob ZL2US (Pres., Br 13/HBARC, Hastings)



*Branch 13/HBARC, Hastings, office bearers,
Peter Keong ZL2PW (Treasurer),
Rob Leicester ZL2US (President),
David Walker ZL2DW (Secretary).*

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Committee Meetings: 7:30 pm, 3rd Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, November

Club Calls: ZL2GT, ZL2G

Club Web Site: <http://www.zl2gt.nz/>

Club Nights: First Wednesday each month (except January) 7.30pm at the Club Rooms: 123 Latham Street Napier

Napier Amateur Radio Club

This month has a distinct Home Brew feel to it, with Errol ZL2IT demonstrating Fox Hunting HomeBrew equipment to firstly generate the "Fox", and then a HomeBrew variable attenuator to aid in the attenuation of strong signals for the "Hunters", The Club is seeking interest in a building program for these parts and eventually a full blown "Foxhunt", probably at a future Sunday Afternoon session. Probably to be followed by a BBQ. Thanks Errol for demonstrating at both Hastings and Napier Branches.

Spring is in the air, and Mike ZL2VM has Spring Cleaned the Radio Shack, leaving lots of Space to operate the equipment, and on Saturday Morning, helpers including Paul ZL2HB, Revell ZL2SS, Wally ZL2MO, Mike ZL2MY, Karl ZL2TJ and myself, got together to (almost) complete the painting Job, repair the guttering and generally tidy the CLUB Rooms up, even the neighbours have commented on the improvements.

The next regular meeting of Branch 25 NARC, will be the the AGM of Branch 25, Please all attend to support those that are standing for office, if you would like to contribute, please come forward and make yourself known. Meeting is the first Wednesday in November at 7:30pm (6/11/2017).

The call for presenters for the bi-annual HAMFEST, to be held in 2018, is repeated here, if you have a pet hobby horse you would like to share or if you have a suggestion of some one the committee can approach, please make this known to any of the Napier Branch Committee, we will welcome your input. We have several presenters at this time, but need somel more.

The Committee has recommended that we continue our once a month Sunday meetings through Summer, so we are looking for activities of interest to make these days a success, please give us your thoughts and suggestions. The November event is touted as a "complete your kitset" day, as there appears to be a number of people who have not completed the Branches previous kitsets, this to be confirmed after the next regular meeting, see you there.

On a personal Amateur Radio Front, I have been pleased to see some Dxpeditons set out for far flung places, operating on EME. I have managed a few more DXCC locations in this month, after the hurried overhaul of my mast head equipment, which is working well. I am also well pleased that there has been some tentative use of the Ham Shack at the Club, we need to come up with a way of securing the building, but allowing Club Member Operators, that may not have a home station , the ability to use the facilities. Bring your ideas on this to the meeting.

In breaking news the annual Es and other propagation modes appears to have started with some good openings over Labour weekend on both 2M and 6M.

That's all for this month, please attend the AGM, and good luck with your ham radio pursuits.

Best 73

Dave ZL2MQ



Branch 13/HBARC October Meeting

The October (meal and) meeting (25th) of Branch 13/HBARC will be held at Waipawa CHB (at the usual venue, Skinny Mulligan's) at 6-30pm. Again it will be nice to visit the patch of many of our CHB members. Partners encouraged to come along as well as visitors. Please let us know if you plan on being there so we can advise our host/caterer.

Please advise numbers attending to Rob ZL2US or David ZL2DW. Thank you.



Branch 13/HBARC November Meeting

A reminder that after the usual General Meeting of Branch 13/HBARC on 22 November we will hold the AGM and (Radio/Electronics) Homebrew Competition. Get those projects completed and bring them along. Remember that if you can't get it through the Hall door then photographs of your entry are acceptable.



Branches 13/25 Combined Xmas Tea

The combined Branches Xmas tea will be held at the Napier RSA on 24 November, 6pm. Please give your numbers attending to either Rob ZL2US or David ZL2DW



For Sale

TR3600 UHF Transceiver (handheld)
EA Sig Gen
1 x Klystron
0-10 ohm 10w load
12v Power Supply (19" rack mount)
Wireless Headset

KDK FM 2025 VHF Transceiver
Stereo FM Generator
Avalon Z60 Audio Amp
2 x 8" 15 ohm speakers
12v - 19v DC Inverter

Contact Mike ZL2VM
027 472 1758

Scary Stuff

To save a few km travelling from Wanganui to Longburn, and by-pass Palm Nth, its possible to leave the main highway at Awahuri, about 10 k from Palm. Nth. and get onto the Rongotea- Longburn road. You can see from the pic, that the 110 kV transmission line poles on each side of the road are right on the edge of the tarseal, with the conductors suspended out over the road, and there is a fair amount of sag in the lines. You wouldn't want a tall HF whip on your car.

Laurie ZL2TC.



Internet Links

Naval Communication Station Harold E. Holt

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_Communication_Station_Harold_E._Holt

David ZL2DW

Welfare Traffic to Dominica/Puerto Rico

<http://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/emergency-communications/1724-welfare-traffic-to-dominica-puerto-rico>

David ZL2DW

For all you CW fans:-

<https://imgur.com/gallery/INAtQ>

Fergus ZL2VF

JOTA / JOTI

Historic "Stoneycroft" homestead provided the backdrop of Branch 13's Scout JOTA/JOTI (Jamboree On The Air/Jamboree On The Internet) weekend. During six hours on Saturday over 30 Scouts come through using the computers installed and worked with Ross ZL2WRW and Peter ZL2LF using HF where possible or VHF and UHF National link when nothing was doing. John ZL2VAF supervised the computers and helped out as needed.

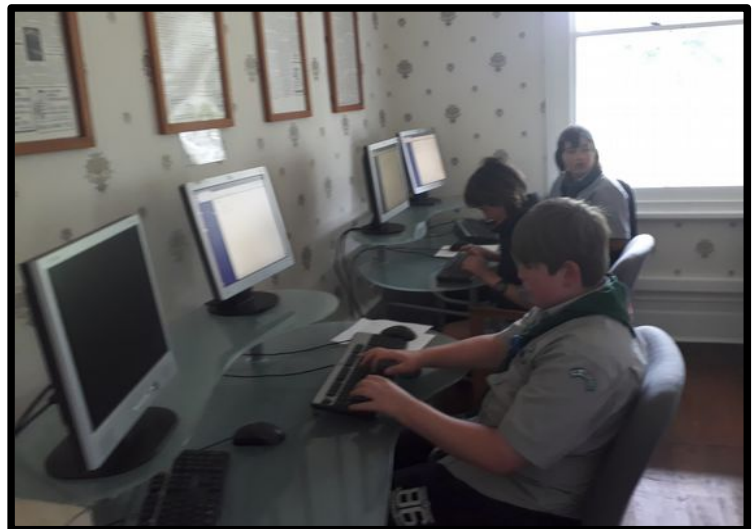


Stoneycroft



Peter ZL2LF Talking to a prospective ham

Ross ZL2WRW working with one of the Scouts



Stoneycroft computers being used for JOTI

DStar

Digital Smart Technology Amateur Radio

DStar is a product of Icom. It digitises voice signals and incorporates a certain amount of data in a combined digital signal. It can be utilised on any of the amateur bands. Bandwidth occupied is 6.25 kHz.

On the VHF and UHF bands it was designed to use local repeaters which are linked via the internet to other DStar repeaters. These repeater interconnections can be local or worldwide. HF DStar is used but I have no experience with it.

Dedicated transceivers are required that have the necessary modems incorporated to code and decode the signals. The transceiver needs to be programmed with information including your callsign. Other information can also be added, your name, location, and if your transceiver has a GPS receiver the coordinates of your QTH can also be transmitted.

To use a local repeater is much like an FM repeater. As well as the voice being heard the callsign and other information is displayed on the screen of receiver of anyone tuned to the repeater. Some even have voice announcements.

To access the internet and thereby distant repeaters you will need to be registered to the DStar network so that you can access the gateway of your local repeater. This is quite a simple process. Registration may take up to 24 hours to happen and no charge is made.

The world wide DStar network has thousands of repeaters and to connect them all together would be unmanageable. So the clever clods devised a system of Reflectors. Simply a reflector is a server with the necessary software loaded and connected to the internet. There are several hundred reflectors, owned locally or by a radio club or by individuals. Most of the reflectors are dedicated to a particular purpose. For state wide networks, for specific interest groups, emergency networks etc. They are all generally accessible by individual hams. One reflector is designated as the "Mega Repeater" (REF001C) and is used as a worldwide contact point. Another is the "Scottish Net" (REF006A).

For me to access a particular reflector via my local repeater I must link the repeater to the reflector. I do this by programming my transceiver to send the appropriate data to the repeater gateway (a computer). This Gateway detects the data and makes the connection. When I have finished my activity on the reflector I can then unlink the repeater from the reflector, again by sending the appropriate data to the repeater Gateway.

If there are no accessible repeaters from you QTH then a number of options are available to allow you to join the DStar network. In all these cases you will still need to be registered on the DStar network.

Options include using your computer to act as your access point into the DStar network. With a DStar dongle in your USB port with the appropriate software, and using your computer microphone a speakers (or a headset), off you go. No radio involved. Another is to use an SDR dongle in your computer/tablet. Then use your DStar radio to connect to the dongle and off you go again. Normally the range of these dongles covers your house and garden as their transmitter power out is in the low milliwatts. Obviously the computer must have internet access.

Instead of your home computer or tablet you can also use RaspberryPi or Arduino and probably other mini computers. Internet access would be via your home router or your mobile phone using cables or Wifi. This type of device is often called a "Hot Spot". These hot spots can have low power transmitters (below 50 mW) or can incorporate standard FM transmitters and receivers and external aerials which now starts to behave like a full repeater with tens of Km range.

The fun?? part in any DStar operation is getting all the devices you are using correctly programmed. The necessary software for these options and devices is available through the internet, usually at no cost and written by amateurs for our use.

There are many and varied internet sites that allow access to monitor activity on repeaters and reflectors, from home or your mobile phone.

For more and detailed information Google is your friend.

Peter ZL2HM