BREAKOUT

The Newsletter of the Hastings and Napier Amateur Radio Clubs

Hastings Branch 13 NZART - Napier Branch 25 NZART

Volume 19, Issue 10, October 2019



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



The site where HF phone contacts were made – article inside

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

Magazine Editor:

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

THE BOSS (of Branch 13/HBARC) SPEAKS

I wonder what some of you all do when it is wet and windy out side and there are no good conditions on the bands?

I know what it's like now to sit at home with nothing to do but watch the world go by and to know it doesn't matter that you are doing nothing and I don't care what others think as now I'm my own boss and there is no one to dictate to me anymore woo hoo, I'm retired.

At this time of the year our next meeting will be in Waipawa and it is always nice to have this option open to us and I have always thought it is good for the club to travel down there and repay the guys from these parts and beyond to show that we are not just local to this part of town. Hoping Wayne ZL2OZ from Dannevirke will come up and join us again.

Well what have I been up to of late, I had to take one of my antennas down as it got water in it again, from the rain, or the hail storm we had where the ground turned white and it looked like it had snowed.

Anyway I pulled the antenna down and pulled it apart to find the fiberglass rods were full of water and things didn't look good so left it for a few days before doing anything to it, slowly it dried out and it was time to put it back together and think of ways to find out where, if I could, the water was getting into the antenna. Three stages to look at and they screw together with just an o-ring to seal them so water could get in from anywhere. I made up some 2 pot mix to seal where the fiberglass and the metal parts meet to reseal them and then I put some heat-shrink over the top of this from top to bottom, so I'm hopping this will seal it and stop the water at long last and then it will be a case of do I stick it back up where I had it or do I wait till I get things sorted to go on the tower and make a good job of it all and put the tri-bander back up as well, who knows. I'm going to play it by ear and wait and see what happens.

Well that's it for this month, I'll see some of you at Waipawa and the rest at the Branch 13 AGM in November, where some of you just might put your hands up or are you going to sit back and let those that do all the work carry on doing it for you all, just remember the club is yours and you need to have input to the club to keep it going.

All the best Blue, ZL3TT, President Branch 13/HBARC, Hastings.



Branch 13/HBARC, Hastings, office bearers, Peter Keong ZL2PW (Treasurer), Blue Smith ZL3TT (President), David Walker ZL2DW (Secretary).

NAPIER BRANCH 25

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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

Last month we ran the annual quiz, winner was our new member, Martin, a close win with 3 runner-ups only one point behind. Sticky buns, and chocolate bars for all contestants, this event went down well, with about 12 people tryng it on.

Next meeting is the AGM and following that the Home brew contest.. bring that project or anything else you have made, photos and / or video of your project are acceptable for large entries.

Think about supporting your club by standing for any of the officer positions or committee, at least come along to support those that stand. The AGM is first Wednesday in November at 7:30pm (6/11/2019).

Spring is in the air, I hope you are all cleaning up your shacks and finishing projects that you may have started in Winter.

I hope to have the kits ready by next meeting, there seems to be some reluctance by the metal fabricators to get our job done..

On a personal Amateur Radio Front, I have been pleased to see some Dxpeditions set out for far flung places, operating on EME.

A chance try at 1296 Mhz between ZL3RC (Christchurch) and myself, although not successful, did show that Aircraft enhancement (AE) is alive and well, This chance passing of some aircraft causing a signal boost has pushed me to look into prediction software. This stuff is a little difficult to set up, but once done tracks aircraft movement and signals when signals might be enhanced. Higher frequencies are easier with the size and height of aircraft in NZ, so 1296Mhz is better than 2M but both will work if the aircraft and conditions are in place.

In breaking news the annual Es and other propagation modes appears to have started with some wspr openings over the last few weeks 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

Who said HF phone was dead and contacts can't be made?

At the last Br 25 meeting Stu ZL2XC happened to show a couple of us his recent 80/40m log. It confirmed to me that even with modest effort good HF phone contacts are currently possible, despite what some may say.

When asked Stu was able to provide further info. re his circumstances and achievements. Thanks Stu.

Here are some snippets from our subsequent email exchange on the subject.

Well done Stu.

The thing to note here is the noise level(s) that Stu is making the contacts through...pretty typical for a townie to have to put up with....but he managed.

(gathered by David ZL2DW)

Attached is a screen shot for you of my recent log.

The star on the right of each log (where seen) indicates the remote operator has confirmed the QSO and has done so by using QRZ.com . Any Circle seen means the operator used LOTW also and matches his log . Many people use the online logs at the moment of the call so confirmation is very quick . In a few months time more of these will become confirmed as they update their respective logs.

For backup purposes, I export the QRZ.com log in *adif format then import into LOTW just in case one of them has a server crash and its not recoverable.



The rig is a 1980's Kenwood TS930 100W (I do not own / use or have access to a Linear Amplifier as it seems some people think I have). – No band scope to use, one must turn the dial and actually listen to find the DX.

QTH is elevated but not on the top of a hill, but on the side of a hill with open views to the east.

Antenna is a centre fed fan dipole with 1:1 current balun. Two elements 80/40 running east west.

Feed height is approx 7 metres from the nearest ground, the ends are held up by two x 6m aluminium 20mm black tubes supported in hockey sticks – perhaps they may work as passive radiators as they are tied to the antenna approx. 6 inches away on the 80mtr section by nylon cord and anchored in wooden posts. The 40mtr section droops below the 80mtr by a good 1 mtr and hence is much closer to the ground.

The dipole is however located on a sloping driveway, which in Angle terms is more like a sloping dipole with one side Horizontal and the other sloping ...but not as severe as a Inverted Vee. See pictures attached

The fan Dipole has a SWR sweet spot at approx. 3790 and 7150 where I trimmed the dipole elements to achieve this.

Feedline is 100ft of RG58 – nothing special here, even got a splice in it from the lawnmower chopping it up .

Noise floor – the usual is as follows:

80 is S4.5 to S5 sometimes as high as S6 – S7. Most of the QSO's are at S5

40 is usually S2 – S3

With 10 db attenuation stepped in , my noise floor is 0 for 7mhz band

Last night I was heard 4/5 into Canada VEDLJ where I logged him with a 4/5 also.

You / they don't need to be 59+40 to work the DX, most of my DX is 4/5 to 58.

South America (75 mtrs – usually on 7396 or 7393 kHz - there are pickings from these regulars that pop up most weeks .. Being CX2CB ,CX4DI ,LU5FC, LU6FL LU2DVI/H heard approx. 8.30 UTC onwards.





Steve ZL2KG and David ZL2DW gathering GPS info. (from below the Tx aerial mast) for the upcoming DMR repeater Lic. at Mt Threave (South Hastings)"





