



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

STOP PRESS

***All Branch Meetings
cancelled until
further notice due to
the Corona Virus***

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

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

Emergency Call-in Frequencies: 3615khz and 670 repeater



Inside This Issue

Hastings Branch 13 Report	Page 2
Napier Branch 25 Report	Page 3
Branch 13 report continued	Page 4
Notices	Page 4
COVID 19	Page 5
Sleepless Nights	Page 6

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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 Vice President Branch 13

As Vice President the hardest part is trying to figure out what to write for the Magazine and also try and sort out something for the up and coming Club Meeting as nothing was organised prior.

Well the main subject around the Planet is obviously the Coronavirus.

The World is becoming a scarier place! While people in New Zealand, Australia and other countries are fighting over toilet paper and sanitary stuff, I see in the USA that people are queueing up in unprecedented numbers to gun shops and legal high drug shops. Really scary!

Whats more scary than the actual virus itself is the reaction in all different ways to it, the fear, the economic implications, restrictions placed on people and the list goes on.

I have travelled to a few places around the World and seen some amazing places but at the end of it all, I really love living right here in New Zealand and little old Hawkes Bay.

If you have read this far, you are probably wondering what has all this got to do with Amateur Radio?

Lets start with the Branch 13 Club meeting at the Pakowhai Hall planned for Wednesday, March 25th. Headquarters has put out a message re Meetings and the fact a lot of us are "Not Young" in the Amateur Fraternity. The Club meeting for March WAS planned to go ahead. The March 25th Meeting is now CANCELLED! The Topics were a small talk or two on my experiences on tracking down radio interference and some Mountain Radio stuff. I was hoping to bring along an infra red Thermal imaging camera and another piece of equipment I use at work for a show and tell as well.

While we are less than a group of 500 people by a long way, the latest advice is to Cancel or postpone any meetings that are unnecessary plus there are some people of our group who are unwell and are particularly vulnerable.

Continued on page 4



*Branch 13/HBARC, Hastings, office bearers,
David Walker ZL2DW (Secretary),
Blue Smith ZL3TT (President),
Peter ZL2HM (Treasurer).*

NAPIER BRANCH 25

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Martin Akhurst ZL2MD		

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 Branch 25 NZART

Well COVID-19 has captured the news channels and is going to affect all our lives, Mary (XYL) and I have decided to self isolate as we are in the vulnerable age group, and also have a child who is self isolating and working from home with a condition that makes him vulnerable, this way we can visit with them. A search on the effects of contracting COVID-19 will scare you!

On this subject of gatherings, and as most of our members are in the 70+ group, I have taken advise from a few committee members and have decided to put our next meeting on hold, and then to review month by month.

Having said that it is an opportunity for us all to check our stations and our capability to handle messages etc. if this thing gets really bad.

If you are on the committee and have decided to stay out in the public arena, I would appreciate you visiting the clubrooms from time to time, to check them out.

Club Project:

The last of these is on sale at Trade Me, if it doesn't sell I will give the local branches members one last chance to purchase at the Club rate.

Being at home has allowed me to play radio, and so far I have finally got LINRAD (the monster SDR program) tamed and running on my EME system. I have also rebuilt my polarity switching system, because of a failed relay.

That's all I have this month

73

Dave ZL2MQ

Continued from page 2

Follow the guidelines of coughing into your elbow and away from people, don't shake hands, wash your hands regularly and so on.

Just a personal example of precautions that are being undertaken in the company I work for. I went and looked at my colleague's thermal camera for the March meeting. I held the camera then put it back, went to Bayview BP, got fuel and a coffee. Went to Kaimata Road and did my job. Around 12 o'clock my colleague phoned to say stop work immediately as he had shaken hands with a former workmate whose son was ill and was being tested. Luckily the result was negative but it certainly was a warning of how easily it could have spread.

While this month's meeting is not going ahead, please be prepared for the possibility of not having a meeting in April or further until things get sorted whenever that is!

The other part of Amateur Radio effect is that in disasters Hams have come to the forefront but we have trained to deal with the likes of earthquakes, Tsunamis and the like. This is history in the making and the possibility of a whole new disaster that hasn't been experienced or tested before and if you are unfortunate to have to be isolated for the 14 days, why not get your radio out and natter to while away the hours?

Stay well, stay safe, communicate and see you at a branch meeting whenever that is!

Rob Wallace
Vice President
Branch 13
Hastings



For Free (and delivered within reason)

AKAI GXC 46D stereo cassette tape recorder/player (top loaded)

Technics 830 stereo cassette tape recorder/player (front loaded)

To anyone who wants both units, they will twice as free

Another option is to wait for BR 13's Donated Junk sale and pay for them ☐ ☐

Photos available as you wish

Contact Mike zl2vm@nzart.org.nz



Silent Key

Ric Coleman ZL2RIC on 13 March 2020.



East Cape Linesman

Blair Lagerstedt ZL2BFO was the East Cape Linesman featured in the last Break Out.



Murray Simons Replacement? – just not in HB

South Island Component Centre in Christchurch has an excellent range and does mail order with a credit card # over the phone.

See: <http://www.sicom.co.nz/>

COVID-19 - Advice for public events and mass gatherings

On 16 March 2020, the Government advised public events or mass gatherings where 500 or more people are together in one place, at one time should be cancelled. Examples include concerts, festivals and sports matches.

Why we are cancelling mass gatherings

New Zealand's priority is slowing the spread of COVID-19. Mass gatherings such as concerts, sporting events and the like pose a high risk of transmission of infectious diseases. Helping people avoid close contact with others as much as possible, like you would with the seasonal flu, is an effective measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These measures are intended to help protect you, your family and all of New Zealand from COVID-19.

Criteria for cancelling events

To slow the spread of COVID-19, gatherings of 500 people or more in close proximity will be cancelled. This includes festivals, fairs, sporting, religious and cultural events. This will be regularly reviewed.

The intent of the measures is to avoid non-essential gatherings which may facilitate the spread of COVID-19.

You should still attend school or work. The Ministry of Education will work with schools and universities to try to mitigate large congregations of people.

Attending public events

The following people should not attend events of any size:

anyone who is unwell

anyone arriving in New Zealand who has returned from any country except those listed in [Category 2](#) (excluding airport transit), or been in close contact with someone confirmed with COVID-19 in

the last 14 days is being asked to [self-isolate](#). Please also register your details with Healthline [0800 358 5453](#) (or +64 9 358 5453 if using an international SIM) if you have not already.

How to minimise the risk of getting sick at an event of any size

The most important thing to do is practice good hygiene. This means:

- covering coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or coughing/sneezing into your elbow
- disposing of used tissues appropriately in a bin
- washing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water and drying them thoroughly, or using hand sanitiser:
 - before eating or handling food
 - after using the toilet
 - after coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose or wiping children's noses
 - after touching public surfaces
- trying to keep two(2) metres away from people who are unwell
- limiting alcohol and drug use (as this may affect your ability to adequately follow the advice above).

The measures above are especially important for people who have existing health conditions, such as those with diabetes, renal failure, chronic lung disease or compromised immune systems.

73

Daniel Vandenberg

ZL2DRV

N.Z.A.R.T Councillor Central Region

N.Z.A.R.T Officers-Council Liaison Officer

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Sleepless Nights

I haven't coped with the nocturnal temperatures over January and February this year.

Based on a premise that 'if I don't go back to sleep in 15 mins – get out of bed' meant that I was awake in the wee small hours of the day almost every night. What does one do? Turn the rig on and check out the bands to see what's what (i.e. the default state whenever there's nothing to do ☐ ☐)

I'm a member of the NZDX League and have access to the Leagues' KiwiSDR in Northland. Setting up the waterfall to cover 80 meters only, I observed a CW signal on 3699 that never stopped as expected with the normal 'your turn - my turn' QSO.

I Googled 'CW on 3699' (as you do) to find the VK QRP Club's Morse Code Practice page http://vkqrpclub.org/qrp_new/qrp1_morse_practice_page.php and from there a Morse Code Practice Beacon sponsored by Amateur Radio New South Wales (ARNSW). Details about the CW Beacon (and other facilities) are available at: http://arnsw.org.au/html/dural_fac.html.

In summary, the CW beacon TX power is 35 watts into a half wave dipole at 10m high located at Dural (QF56MH) and that's 2389 kms due west from me (@RF80KL) and is about 25km NW of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

I suspected I could hear the beacon at my place OK but would I hear it above my relentless S9+ suburban QRM? Having only a 40/20 dipole here at my QTH, I hauled out a mobile whip I have tuned to 3615, dusted off the cobwebs, made a suitable bracket, and poked a hole in the sky. And there it was, albeit in the noise. I reached for my 300kHz narrow IF filter selector to recall that the filter is currently fitted to my FT817 and it was going to be a real mission to remove the FT857 from its transport frame and then install the CW filter. But surprise, surprise . . .

My Yaesu FT857D is fitted with some noise processing facilities so I pushed a few buttons to see if I could improve reception to find one of the buttons introduced an audio bandpass filter that was adjustable in 3 steps: 60 Hz, 120 Hz and 240 Hz. The signal didn't pop out but the noise was less intimidating.

And no, the noise processing features are not fitted to the FT817 (I actually read the handbook for that information).

My next rush of blood was to see if a CW reader I have to hand could decode the Morse. Connecting a hi/lo Z adaptor to the Speaker Out socket on the FT857 was not worth the effort used to build the thing so I turned to the 6-pin line out socket on the rear of the rig to source the AF.

The 6-pin socket is currently connected to my Signalink interface by a 6-pin to RJ45 cable I bought from Yaesu so I built another adaptor, RJ45 to 3.5mm, to suit the CW Reader.

And so proved what I already knew; the human brain is the best thing ever for decoding CW.

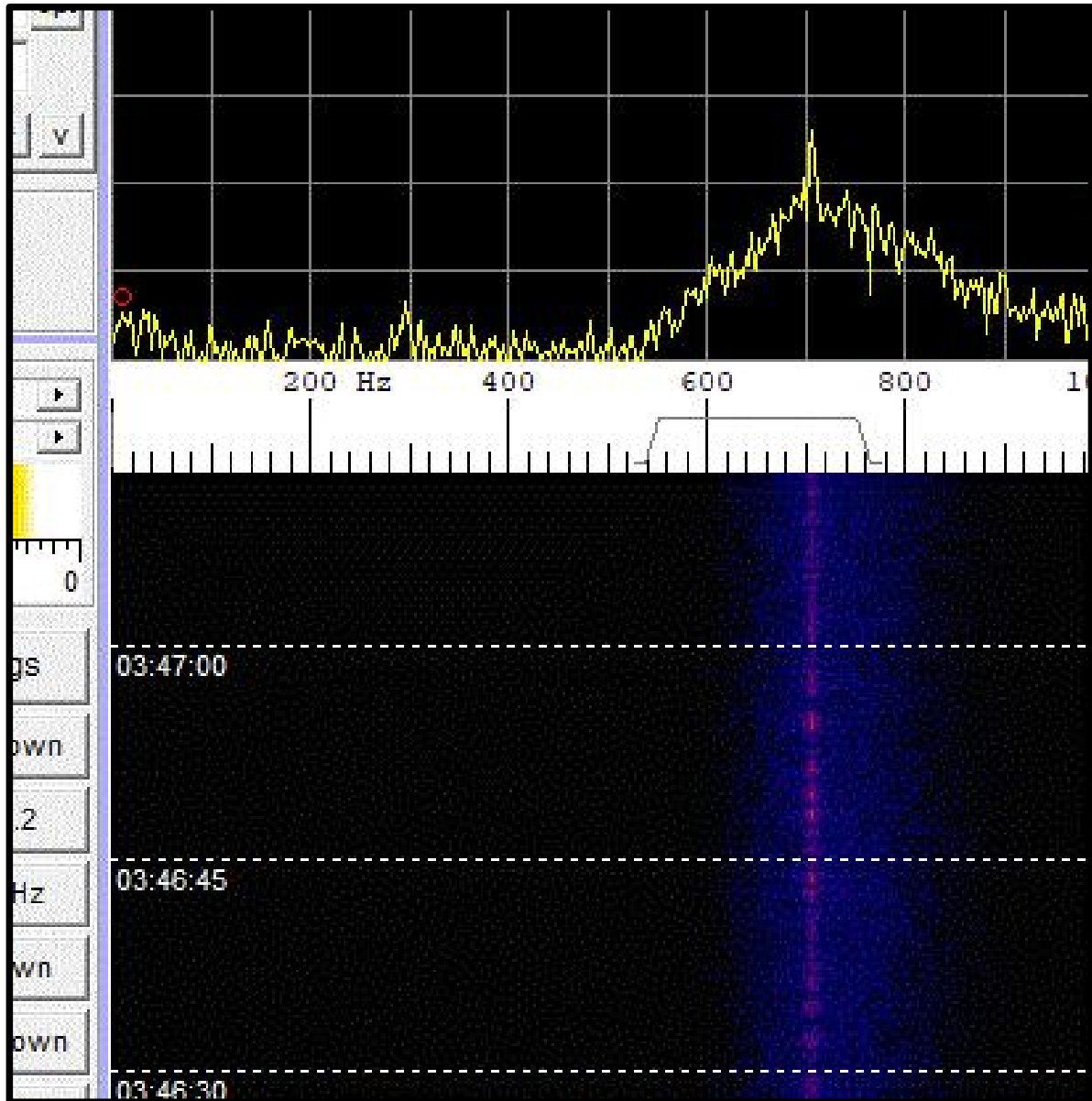
Nevertheless, the RJ45 to 3.5mm provides convenient access for my bhiCIL <https://www.bhi-ltd.com/noise-cancelling/dsp-noise-cancelling-in-line-modules/compact-in-line.html> so my efforts weren't all in vain.

ARNSW invites listeners of the CW beacon to provide a signal report thus my next challenge was to provide them with one.

As my S meter is pinned to S9 with or without a signal, I thought that I could use Spectrum Lab software to tell the story and that involved re-connecting my Signalink. Sigh.

I built a new adaptor . . . this one has a switch. I can now choose between the bhiCIL and the Signalink without leaving my seat.

And yes, Spectrum Lab tells a story.



Next Steps

- Play with a Loop Aerial
- Calibrate Spectrum Lab
- Explore SSB on 80 using my bhiCIL
- Build on the hours spent listening to CW and find my Morse key

73

Mike

ZL2VM