



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 new award? Check out the article on page 4

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

<http://www.zl2as.org.nz/>

Emergency Call-in Frequencies: 3615khz and 670 repeater



<https://arec.nz/join-arec/>

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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

From Napier Branch 25

Last General Meeting, after the usual business, "Show and tell" was on again, and David ZL2DW brought his scrap books, which included news items including hams, as well as many other interesting articles on Ham activity in the district. David also brought along some examples of base loaded MF and HF whips from his collection. Errol ZL2IT, showed his end fed wire antenna with traps constructed with PCB capacitors for 40M and extra loading for 80M.

Deanne ZL 2MCH brought along an example of early handheld 2 metre radio (previously owned by her Father, Alan Chong), and I showed some photos of my son's 30kw off grid solar system. These exhibits opened up considerable discussion and opened up a few memories as well. All good stuff!

I am writing this on Saturday at 10ish, and have just completed a 10M contact with EA5JZ Paul. My 1/4 wave vertical, part of my multiband trapped dipole, working well just 6 feet of the ground. (I think he was doing the heavy lifting on this one, hi hi). There has been significant activity on 10 metres this week at about this time, and 20 Metres has also been going well. I don't have antennas for other dx bands so can't comment on them, but cycle 25 is alive and well it seems.

Errol's home brew nights continue and are enjoyed by the participants, all welcome to come and have a look. 7pm 2nd and 4th Mondays at the Clubrooms.

We have a working bee at the Club Rooms, next Sunday 27th August, to reinstate the beacon aerials and reinstall the vertical antenna to the roof, please come along to give a hand about 9:30am.

Next Meeting, usual short business then Mark will present a video explaining the technicalities of the Starlink internet (and soon to be text on mobile phones) systems. The meeting will be the usual 7:30pm on 5th of September

I wish you all an enjoyable month in Ham Radio, see you at the working bee and the next meeting!

73 Dave ZL2MQ

HASTINGS BRANCH 13

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Club Call:	ZL2AS and ZL2QS		
Net Controllers (Sunday '670 repeater, 9am)	ZL3TT/ZL2DW		
Club Nights:	Fourth Wednesday each month (except December) at 7.30 pm Pakowhai Hall, Pakowhai Road		
Club Fees	\$20 per year payable to Branch 13 a/c # 03 0642 0733310 00 (use your call sign as a reference).		

From the Top Table

Here I sit and right now it's raining, yea no work outside today so there is no reason I can't work some of the HF bands once again and at the moment they are in good shape with 10m open for a short time yesterday and 20m going very well.

We move on with what we do best and that is hamming and talking to whoever want's to listen and there are a lot that do because they then can do the same and on this subject I heard Dave zl2mq the other day talking to a vk station with a good copy from both at my QTH, which of course is not hard as Dave lives not far from me in a straight line, but it is good that some are getting on the bands and using them when you have spare time but don't put radio ahead of your other jobs that have to be done. I find this at the end of the day when I'm working the bands and look at the time and then have to go QRT so that I can get on with other things and it is so hard when you have a pile up and you leave them all sitting there waiting to work you, and there are of course the mud ducks, these are the stations that you can hear but are so weak that it is almost impossible to work them once the bands come alive.

Well that's just about it, we are still waiting to hear when we will be back at our club rooms, perhaps later this year for our last meeting of the year or maybe even next year at this stage but as you all know it is something we have no control over and we will just have to keep going as we are until we get the all clear and as a club we are grateful to branch 25 for the use of their club rooms. Last month we packed the room out with our junk auction and it was a good one, as usual, with some of the newly licensed hams turning up..... good to see them and some went home with more than they came with, am I right Luke?

Ok its time to get this off so I look forward to seeing some of you on Wednesday night and I'm sure you will be happy to come along and see what we are going to have for you to listen to or talk about or maybe ask some questions of the guys that have been there and done that and worked it out, as we are good at sharing the info. that some of us have gained over the years and are only to happy to pass on.

Blue ZL3TT President Branch13 HBARC



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

Rag Chewing: A Lost Art

Posted by Mark Haverstock, K8MSH on July 28, 2023 at 9:01 pm

How long are your QSOs? If you're a contester, they're likely done in seconds. Operating FT8, your semi-automated QSOs exchange call signs, locations, and signal reports—all in about 90 seconds. Those seeking WAS (Worked All States award) may keep conversations short in order to find more states. What happened to casual chats on the HF bands or your local repeater?

Not What You Think

I asked my 15-year-old grandson and his 40-something father what rag chewing meant. I got an "Ewww, gross" from one and a blank look from the other. Neither is a ham.

The phrase "chewing the rag" is known to have been used since the Middle Ages. One explanation says "chew" was slang for "talk," and "rag" is derived from "fat" or is a reference to the tongue. "Chewing the rag" thus became a phrase meaning casual conversation, frequently while sitting around a meal, and later, when chatting on the radio.

"Ragchew" refers to an informal conversation on amateur radio that generally involves two or more people. Generally, rag chewing involves talking about hobbies, interests, and current news. It's common for these conversations to veer off topic or to take on an informal and laidback tone.

It's usually considered a recreational and social activity that is both for enjoyment and camaraderie. But rag chewing can also be educational since it can provide users with the opportunity to practice their radio communication skills, share ideas and knowledge about the hobby, and find out about new ham radio activities.

Rag Chewer Awards

The Rag Chewers Club (RCC) was one of the easiest awards a ham could earn. To qualify, you only needed to provide evidence that you made a single radio contact that lasted more than 30 minutes. It was created to encourage hams to go beyond a short signal report/location QSO and actually engage in a friendly, meaningful conversation.

Its original intent was to offer a warm welcome into ham radio by offering an award certificate that would be prized, yet obtainable by newcomers. All you had to do was apply and include verification of the QSO—it was free.

For years the award had been offered by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, in 2004 it was discontinued, probably due to the cost of the award. The award was rescued by The Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR), which now has been disbanded. Some other groups have picked up the slack, including the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC).

About five years ago, the ARRL was reconsidering sponsorship and took a survey of hams in November 2018. However, there has been no mention since then about an RCC revival on the ARRL's website.

What Can You Talk About?

Your first contact can be a bit intimidating. For that reason, it might be a good idea to arrange a QSO with a friend or someone in your radio club.

After the call sign exchange, signal report, op name and location, the usual topics include local weather, equipment you're using (radio, antenna, mic, etc.), and then whatever you feel like discussing. Other subjects might include hobbies, how long you've been a ham, occupation, pets, and more

Discussions of politics, religion, and other potentially controversial topics could attract controversy and provoke arguments on the air. If it looks like your conversation is going sideways, it might be a good idea to change the topic or conclude the contact.

You might be fortunate enough to make contact with a foreign (DX) station. Some speak limited English, so take that into consideration. If they are conversant in English (or you are conversant in their native language), you can always tell them a little about yourself and your local area and ask them about theirs. Or you could tell them what ham radio is like in the U.S., as well as discuss your involvement in amateur radio clubs and organizations.

Continuing the Conversation

Many contacts that take place on the HF ham radio bands are what we call "rubber stamp" contacts. These QSOs consist of a set format and do not normally involve long conversations. There are a number of reasons for this, such as contests that have time constraints, the limitations of some digital modes, or crowded DX pileups. However, many ham radio operators like to talk about far more than is contained within the basic contact. Often technical discussions may be heard, or ham stations may be describing the part of the world where they live. Maybe you'll connect with a gregarious ham and have that half-hour talk.

Fellow rag chewers, let's stamp out the rubber stamp QSO!



FOR SALE

Telescopic 9 Meter tall tubular mast. Consists of 4x 2.5 meter sections, tapering from 48mm down to 28mm. Includes galvanised halyard pulley, nylon halyard and 3 nylon guys.

Stainless steel locking bolts etc. Ideal for inverted vee dipole or vhf antenna
\$125

Contact Rob Shepherd ZL2AN ph 06 8440109/0274 548 567



WIZARD REQUIRED

Yaesu FT-897. I require someone to replace the display in my FT-897 rig for me (I have the new display). If someone is able and willing to do so please contact me to discuss further.

Thanks, Eddie Woolman ZL2TEW, Napier 027 2747417.