

BREAKOUT

The Newsletter of the Hastings and Napier Amateur Radio Clubs

Hastings Branch 13 NZART – Napier Branch 25 NZART

Volume 23, Issue 8, September 2023



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



What is it? Find the answer inside

<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

Napier Branch 25 Amateur Radio Club

At the moment we are experiencing the usual equinoxial winds and higher temperatures which will be testing our antenna mountings, I hope everything is staying put at your place.

The bands I can monitor seem to be a bit of a come and go affair, probably due to some minor solar storms occurring at the moment.

Last Meeting, after the usual short business, Mark presented a video explaining the workings of the Starlink Satellite internet system, with its intricate ground aerial arrangements, which was well received by those present.

The working bee, was successful in getting the re-made aerials (Thanks Mike) back in the air and connected through to the 6 and 2 Metre WSPR transmitters, we still need to remount the old vertical HF multi-band aerial, as a spare, and complete the backstay for the tuner / long wire antenna, so we will need another working bee... to be announced.

Regretably, since the above, the power supply running the WSPR transmitters has failed, and because there was no crowbar on that particular supply, the resulting unregulated 24 VDC managed to wreak havoc on the equipment, with the PAs, driver and temperature controller all being destroyed. Your committee has voted to purchase replacement parts which will arrive and be installed in due course.

Hopefully the WSPR system can be reinstated before the Es season gets going. Future failures will be minimised by the installation of a crowbar to the supply.

The next regular meeting of Branch 25 NARC, will be the Quiz night with 10 general Knowledge questions and 10 technical questions straight from the Amateur Radio License exam, These will all be multichoice answerable, so don't be too frightened to have a go, there will be prizes. This Meeting is the first Wednesday in October at 7:30pm (4/10/2023) at the usual venue 123 Latham Street.

That's all for now, see you all at the Clubrooms
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

Spring has sprung and the temperatures are going up each day and now we turn our minds to outside activities. What we can do on antennas and towers? For me I think it will be a coat of paint on my tower and a bit of a clean up under it as that is where stuff goes that I don't have a home for (RUBBISH).

Also I am hoping that we don't get too much more wind as it just gives my ladder line hell. It gets whipped around so much and I have already had to fix it where it snapped. I have had to re solder it back together and I often wonder what would be better with ladder line, the stuff I have is 450 Ohm single strand, or would multi strand be better? This is some thing that I have pondered on quite a lot of late Then there is the question of who stocks it here or do I have to go to some one like DX engineering and ask them if they stock multi strand 450 Ohm ladder line.

Well, I wait and see as I'm sure some one will have the answer to that and then we will have to work out what the cost including shipping would be.

I have just been informed that there are some QSL cards which will be at the next meeting. Those for Branch 25 will be left in their QSL box just inside the door of the club rooms. Please check to see if there are any for you.

We have also been informed that we, Branch 13, will not be back at our club rooms this year. I am ever hopeful that we can get back to ours some time early next year with an improvement to the hall and some nice new things to use. Like all things we just have to be patient and wait till this work has all been done.

That's it for this month, I hope those that use the HF bands have fun and enjoy the openings on the different bands and, like myself, have a lot of fun making contacts all around the world.

Cheers Blue ZL3TT

President Branch 13 HBARC



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

When the cats away the mice will play

The other night at the building club in Napier, one of our senior members was away and so we got up to some mischief.

One of our new members was having trouble with his glass top cooking top. This is mounted in the the counter top and not on the stove.

He showed me a video of it and when you switch on the mains at the wall without any elements turned on, strange lights flicker in the wrong places under the glass cooking top .

Then there was a clicking noise and the thing reset.

Now I know nothing about stoves as I served my apprenticeship in Television repair. I said "Bring it along and we'll have a look at it". And that is what he did. We turned it upside down on the work bench, our member had thought to bring along two pieces of 4 by 2 (100 by 50 to our younger lot). This is what we used to place the top on, so as not to place any strain in the control knobs.

We took the back cover off and it was like staring into a bush. Now I know nothing about stove tops other than the basic theory of resistive heating elements.

I asked an electrician who lives across the road and he said that "flat top glass or ceramic cooking tops, the elements are hard to get, and if you can get an element, they are usually very highly priced ". "The usual result is that buying a new cooking top is the way to go."

So I had looked up the problem on the internet and found some pictures of what the top might look like inside. What could possibly go wrong ?

I had taken a temporary power lead ,I have a couple of leads that come from Microwave ovens. They are a short heavy cable and I use them all the time when I'm building something, when I need a lead to power up a project, or something like that.

Using the multimeter we tried to work our way around the circuit and get an idea of where everything was and build up a circuit in our head. There were these little white oblong boxes, with three wires, on the end of each element. No idea of what they did.

The third wire connected from these white oblong boxes was fed up to another little box which has LED's laid out in the array of the four elements on the top cooking top.

When you switch off the element, if the surface of the glass plate is hot, one of these LED's will glow, telling you not to touch.

Back in the good old days the Americans built an aeroplane called the Black-bird. This was one of the high speed spy planes with a really nice shape and it was painted black, with a type of paint to dissipate the heat. The hull was not made of aluminium from recycled beer cans, but some high strength light metal. The workers at the air base where these planes were based learned very early on. "Never touch the hull after the plane had landed". It may be black, it may look safe, but it could still be at hundreds of degrees centigrade or more. You had no warning until you touched it.

This glass cooking top has warning lights that come on to tell you that the parts of the top are hot. Every thing looked fine.

There was nothing obviously wrong, so the next place to look, was under the separate metal guard over the back of the element switches.

There was this interesting little hole in the centre of the cover. I thought it was a drain hole, but when I had a close look at it with my glasses on, it was slightly non-round and it had this brass looking sort of shiny look on one side of the hole. Taking the cover off I had a look inside. I had thought that this was a drain hole in case of fluid spills or something. It turned out to have a corresponding hole blasted through the insulation layer where an arc from the back of the switches had gone to the metal case.

Stove top elements are controlled not by a simple on off switch but a switch called a simmerstat. These shimmerstats have no feedback from the element. It has a bimetal strip with a heater element around it, just the same as a toaster, and it heats up and bends. There is a contact on the end that opens circuit the voltage to the element. It doesn't matter if you have a pot on the element or not, just cycles on and off.

Working my way through the colour codes of the wires it appears to be, (and we thank our lucky stars) that sometimes these things just work out.

That was amazing, the contact to the switch that had arced down to the metal case (and possibly it had a drip of fluid on it) was the mains input to the switch. This means that there was no current flow through the switch. With luck it should be okay so Dave suggested that we use thick paper as a temporary insulation.

We fitted it in, refitted the cover and tested. Every thing worked as normal, so that was a good job done and we packed up to go home for the night.

It was now 2100 hours and I headed off home .

Normally I would have used my usual closing .

Sorry I can't, because caffeine at this time at night doesn't agree with me, so I'll simply say -

Hams helping Hams.

Eric ZL2TSU



SO YOU HAVE PREPARED YOUR SILENT KEY FORM...now what ?

If you are "on to it" you will have pre dealt with your "NZART SK Form" so that your call sign can be canceled, handed on or held for a period of time when you become a SK.

But what about your listing in qrz.com have you pre dealt with that ?.

Some folk have had quite a job reregistering a call sign that belonged to a SK when they have picked it up as a new user of that call sign.

It's quite easy.....send to qrz

- evidence of that SK person having held the call sign (your NZART issued Ham Certificate is evidence) and

- a copy of your death certificate.

Obviously this process needs to be dealt with by someone on your behalf after you become a SK so you should issue instructions to your family accordingly.

NCC proposed district plan

Submissions are open till 5pm, Friday 15 December 2023.

See: <https://napier.isoplan.co.nz/draft/rules/0/165/0/0/0/88>
scroll down to clause NU-S14

Regards,
Karl ZL1TJ



Branch 13 meeting schedule

- 27 September, 7-30pm, at Branch 25 Club Rooms Keith ZL2TAB talk re transceiver audio shaping
- 25 October, 6pm, "CHB Meal and Meeting" at Skinny Mulligans, Waipawa, bookings to David ZL2DW
- 22 November, 7-30pm, normal GM followed by the AGM and then the "Homebrew Competition", venue to be advised.

David (ZL2DW 0274 502501)



TRANSCEIVER AUDIO SHAPING

Keith ZL2TAB will give a presentation on this subject at the next Br 13 meeting (on 27 Sept).

He will be setting up a TX with the mic audio coupled from a 0.3 - 4 kHz sweep oscillator. The device used to 'couple' the audio is fairly 'flat' up to above 4 kHz, The recovered audio from another RX will be displayed on an audio spectrum analyzer.

What we see is the result of the speech processing in the TX and the audio bandwidth of the RX..

Keith ZL2TAB



FOR SALE

Personalised mugs (as per the sample picture). Your rig, your call sign and your name.

\$29 each including freight (a bulk freight order may produce a cheaper individual cost).

Talk to and place orders with-

Keith ZL2TAB, Hastings 06 874 3199 or
Keith@transastra.nz



WANTED TO BUY

3 x N coax adaptors, Female both ends (female as determined by the centre pin).

Contact David (ZL2DW 0274 502501)

FURTHER INFO. re the "Rag Chewers Award" (see Aug. Break Out)

The (NZ) Rag Chewers Award was started by Alex Rennie ZL2AR in 1931, a Branch 48 member. After his death, there was no mention of it. Ivan Horn ZL2ATU took up the challenge in 2009 to reactivate this award.

Jim Hubbard (well known cartoonist from Hawkes Bay) drew the cartoon, which is of a big fella relaxing at his Radio and scoffing Rag.

The first qualifier in NZ in 2009 was Barry Stewart ZL2RR.

To qualify for the award is easy, just one thirty minute QSO (one over) or two can Rag Chew for one hour. Postage has been the big deterrent for plugging the award.

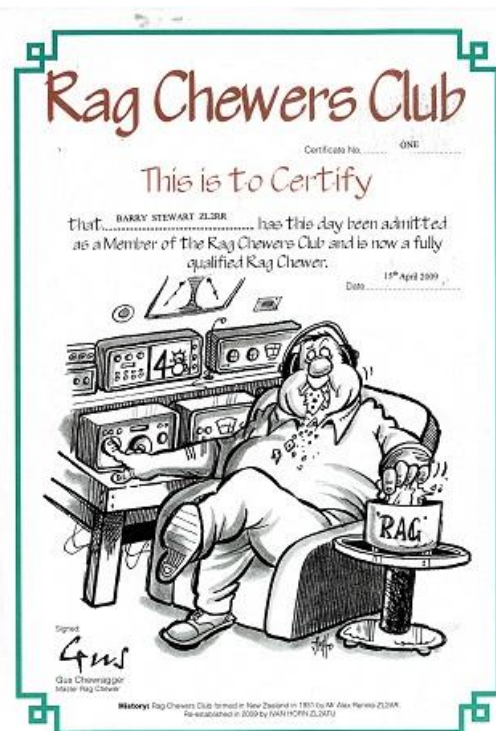
To cover my costs of printing and postage, the charge will be \$10.00.

Application for the Award to

Ivan Horn ZL2ATU zl2atu@xtra.co.nz

P.O.Box 7250

Wanganui 4501



For Sale

Amplifier for Small Magnetic and Electric Wideband Receiving Antenna.

See: [Active Antenna Amplifier Kit \(active-antenna.eu\)](http://active-antenna.eu)

Never powered up.

While the antenna switching unit has been completed, I never managed to build the loops (although I have the copper).

Contact me on rlb.mbb@xtra.co.nz

Cheers Mike ZL2VM



TO MATCH WITH THE OWNER.

At the last Branch 13 "Donated Junk Auction" someone received a Leader TV-FM Swemar Generator Model LSG-532. I have the manuals to give to you. Please contact me so I can hand them over.

David ZL2DW 0274 502501



Available

Two 2 metre poles. One is a barge board mount and the second a ridge mount with 2 stays. Free.

Contact Ray ZL2RB, 021729266,

FOR SALE

Short range high speed mobile vehicle (very green in nature, no batteries required, other than for radio accessories. Comes complete with mast but no radios supplied).

Older Blokart with 3 sails and new tyres to have fun in the sun, My hands are not able to hold things like they used to and a wonky leg makes it to hard to get in and out of now. No fuel to buy and no pollution. A great bunch of other karting people to mix with. You don't even get your feet wet and best of all you can't drown. Takes 10 min to rig and packs down into a small bag that fits into most car boots.

Selling for \$2500 ono, new ones are \$5000 depending on how much go fast gear you want.

Contact Colin Smith ZL2TMX, Taradale, phone 06 8440212.



FOR SALE

(Funds to Branch 13)

A Moonraker 4m long HF whip and mounting base. Perhaps for a boat ???? but never used. Slight damage.

Offers to David ZL2DW 0274 502501



The answer is

A Cat's whisker (centre of picture) crystal set from the early 1930's. The slider taps the coil to tune in the AM radio station. Earth and aerial are connected at each end of the coil and the Hi Z headphones are connected to the front Farnstock terminals. No batteries required.

Courtesy of Brian Davis (Nelson), it belonged to his Dad.



ZL2KO

New Zealand Association of
Radio Transmitters Inc.

Branch 20 - Manawatū

Longburn Table Sale

Saturday 30th September 2023 at 10.00hrs

The last weekend of September we will have our annual Longburn Table Sale.

This is a weekend earlier than usual due to the elections.

Doors open for sellers at 08.30hrs and to the public at 10.00hrs.

The usual kitchen food/BBQ, along with hot and cold drinks will be available for sale.

Costs for a table of your own to sell your surplus goods:

- Full Table \$25
- Half Table \$15

Please have these booked and paid for by Friday 22nd September 2023.

For further details or to book a table email tablesale@zl2ko.org.nz

The preferred method of payment is via internet banking to our club account:

- Account Name: Manawatu Amateur Radio Society
- Account Number: 03-1522-0161009-000
- Use the Following details when making payment:
 - Particulars: Table Sale
 - Code: *Your Name*
 - Reference: *Your Callsign*

Please Note

This is a cash only event, please bring small change if possible.

Location

Longburn Community Centre, 17 Ngaire Street, Longburn (Off SH56)

See the next page for a map.

