



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



One of ZL2AS's operating stations for the Jock White Field Day - Full report next mag.

<http://www.zl2gt.nz/>
<http://www.zl2as.org.nz/>

Emergency Call-in Frequencies: 3615khz and 670 repeater



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

Inside This Issue

Napier Branch 25 Report	Page 2
Hastings Branch 13 Report	Page 3
Wairoa Gathering Day	Page 4
Club Subs	Page 5
Branch 13/HBARC Club meeting	Page 5
For Sale	Page 5
Commonwealth Contest	Page 5
Welcome to the world of HF	Page 6
Building Club New Year start	Page 7
5 Mistakes Hams Still Make ...	Page 8
Is the tension between Cbers ...	Page 9
Hawkes Bay AREC Group	Page 10
Weekend Project	Page 10

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

Branch 25 Presidents Report

Hi Everyone,

This weekend being the Jock White memorial field day contest I just wanted to thank everyone who participated in standing up the station. Especially the main organizer Phil ZL2RO and Rob ZL2SG for the use of his property.

There were some long hours put in. Who would have thought it was so tiring "just" talking on the radio. It was a great event and even though setting up camp in the pouring rain on Friday night was challenging, it may have helped soften the ground to drive the stakes for the aerial guys on Saturday once the station setup time had started.

It was great to hear the bands alive with many of the branches as well as home stations on the air. I look forward to next year's contest and being able to share this side of ham radio with more participants.

Kind Regards,

Bryce Gilbert

NARC Secretary

ZL1BCG

027 276 4928

HASTINGS BRANCH 13

President:	Keith Hinton-Cooper	ZL2TAB	ph 021 429 749	email: keith@transastra.nz
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NZART License Examiners:	Dave ZL2MQ, Ray ZL2RB. Peter ZL2HM			
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).			

More Musings from the President

Well, another month behind us as we seemingly race through the year. I don't know if it is just me, however the years seem to go faster as you get older.

And thinking about getting older (and not just me) and the inevitable outcome, it is as good a time as any to consider completing the 'Silent Key' form to reduce the stress on those left to clean out the shack. See

<https://nzart.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2018-Silent-Key-Removal-Form.pdf>

The completed form can be lodged with the club secretary for action as and when required. On the club activity front, the weekend of 22nd/23rd is the Jock White Field days. Phil, ZL2RO and his team intend to win outright this year. We may have the results by the time you read this !

Another 'thing' is this year there are contested positions on NZART Council. If you are a financial NZART member you will have received a voting paper with Break-in. It needs to be posted to the returning officer. However, with the cost of postage now, we have been told we can collect up all the envelopes with the names and addresses on the back and put them in a single courier post pack and save money. To avail yourselves of this saving, make sure you have completed everything and bring your envelope along on Club night the 26th and it will be sent at no cost to you.

The Tuesday evening Net (1930 local time, 670 repeater) is slowly gathering momentum, numbers are modest however there are a few callsigns we don't hear too often which is good. It is not a 'secret society', anyone is free to join in and have a chat. I suspect once winter arrives there may be a greater following, lets wait and see.

The HBRC web site <https://ZL2AS.org.nz> is progressing, and if you haven't recently done so, have a look.

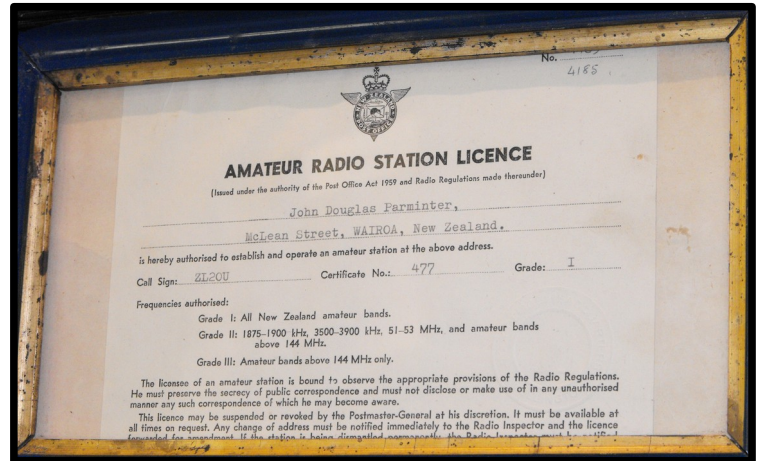
Other than that, don't stand the coffee cup on top of the rig, those ventilation slots are like magnets to the dribbles down the side of the cup, and we will catch up on the 26th.

73, Keith, ZL2TAB

WAIROA GATHERING DAY

With 26 people attending the day from Wairoa, Gisborne and Hastings/Napier it was definitely a great day. There was much discussion re the ZL20U display in the Wairoa Museum.... amongst many other things to view... a great wee Museum. This was followed by a very nice Café Lunch and much discussion as we mixed with our "neighbours". Finally, an "inside" presentation of the old Portland Island Lighthouse (now resident in Wairoa town) was extended to us by a staff member from the Wairoa District Council who "opened up" the Lighthouse for us. We were able to climb right up to the "light platform". Thank you to all involved.

David ZL2DW



Portland Island
The Lighthouse
can be seen at the
bottom right hand
corner of the
Island. The view
is to the North.



Club subs

I know this is a pain in the a**e subject, however it is one that comes around every year.

Club subs. \$20.00. Less than a burger & fries from Maccas. And they are currently OVERDUE if it has slipped your mind

Last year (2024) we had

Honorary member 1 (7L2PGJ)

AREC 8

Silent Key 0

Membership-paid 52

Not paid 11

resigned 0

Which gave us 60 financial members

So far this (2025) year we have had 23 members subs paid. We also unfortunately have members joining the ranks of 'Silent keys' from last year.

If you are unsure whether you have paid or not, ask Peter ZL2HM and I am sure he will be able to update you.

Remember the local 'Nets', on the local 670 repeater 'Cornflakes net'; 0730 each week day, 'Steak and eggs net' 1930 Tuesday evening and the combined branches net 0900 Sunday morning.

Don't be shy, join in for a chat.

73, see you on Wednesday evening Keith ZL2TAB



Branch 13/HBARC, Hastings Meeting

Wednesday 26 February, 7-30pm, at Pakowhai Hall.



FOR SALE

(for Branch 13 funds)

2 x 12volt 100a/h batteries, \$40 each, contact David ZL2DW 0274 502501



Commonwealth Contest 8/9 March

The Commonwealth Contest will run on the 8/9 March 2025. This is the oldest amateur contest and was instigated by an idea from an early ZL ham.

Rules are linked from the NZART Contest website page as NZART is now a member of the organising committee. This is one of two contests where HQ stations are in play, this year the ZL6HQ callsign will be run by Mark ZL3AB.

This is not a rate contest so is a bit more relaxed than your typical "hair on fire" event. It's ideal for new and returning CW operators to sample contesting in a friendly, Commonwealth only environment.

Sing out if you have any questions?

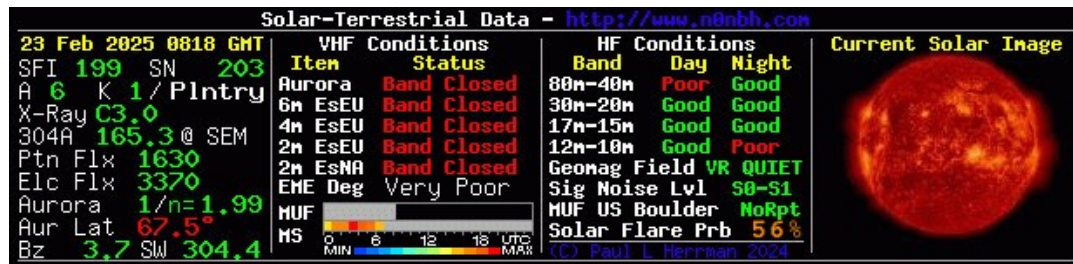
73

Geoff ZL3GA

NZART Contest Manager

<https://nzart.org.nz/activities/contests/nzart-contest-calendar/>

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF HF



Solar Indexes

Hi out there to one and all, over the last couple of days I had a phone call from z12tab asking me to write a report on the HF bands.

Where to start that's easy look at what is above and you can plainly see that some of the bands are good and some not so good.

You can find this sort of info on the internet or you can just look at QRZ and you will find it on there log in page, This is all you need to know what is happening on the bands and you do need to know what all this info means for you to operate HF.

This info changes from day to day and some times is wrong and the band will be open so once you have seen this you then need to go and turn your transceiver on and wind though the bands and it also depends on what time of the day it is that you want to operate at.

We have what is known as the grey line and this is from about 1 hour before sun rise to about 1 hour after sun rise and then again at the end of the day we have the same thing so in total there is about a 4 hour window that the bands are very workable if they are open.

But at the moment 10 meters is open but poor during the day and 20 meters is not to bad at night from around 6pm nztime.

After saying that 40 meters is easy most of the day for around z1.

Now for all you new guys there is more to HF than we can tell you as a lot of what we know comes from being around the bands and listing to what is coming out of the HF rig and that also depends on what sort of antenna you are using, there are so many variables to HF that I can't tell you about them all.

According to my log book I have only been recording contacts on QRZ since 2009 but I have been working a lot more stations than that but never recorded them in a log book of any kind with a total of 6,017 contacts from around the world and a 135 counties worked but in all there has been 53,323 people that have looked up my QRZ page.

All of my contacts have also been transferred to LOTW, (Log book of the world) and to QRZ.

I also use eQSL as this is a lot cheaper than sending QSL cards via snail mail at \$4.41 per card or like I have been doing lately is sending my QSLs to one person and then asking them to repost within that country and I send them the \$US dollars and this money comes from overseas stations that send money with there QSL, but of cause you can use the QSL Bureau By just handing your QSLs to Wally ZL2MO and he will send them off but if you do intend to QSL this way make sure you follow the rules.

Ok for those that it concerns this is just my opinion and not the opinion of anyone else and I stand to be corrected by anyone and remember I learned from some of the best operators we had and I welcome anyone that wants to learn more to just ask and you will learn hopefully.

73 Blue ZL3TT

Building club new year start

Last month was the first meeting of the year of the building club in Napier and we had what can only be stated as a great night. One of those nights that you dream of.

Over the Christmas break Errol has been working on a Meshtastic system.

This operates on 915 megahertz, and it's a mesh system where messages can be sent through a network without a master repeater or any other powered system that may go down when there is a major event like The Cyclone Gabrielle storm.

A mesh system is where all the units all talk to each other and they ripple the message from one end of the network to the other, until they arrive at where they sent to go.

Errol has built up a couple units and he brought one to show us.

At the moment they are battery powered, but if people are interested a solar power system will be built.

A mesh system is the way the Elon Musk star net satellite system works as they pick up the message from you and they send it from satellite to satellite through the system until a satellite can reach a down load to the normal internet network on the ground and your reply comes back by the same path.

The lower East coast of the North Island is expecting an earth quake in the range of 8 to a 9 lasting about 10 minutes in the next 50 years.

AREC will need as much help as it can get. At the other end of the bench were two new hams and they were busy re-powering a emergency 2 meter portable system and it came in an army metal 50 calibre ammunition box.

The box was in brand new condition, and there was no marks or scratches on it at all.

50 calibre Bullets and not very common in New Zealand until recently .

The box had a small 2 meter transceiver with a hand mic, a battery and a screw on 2 meter aerial mounted on the outside of the box. The battery needed replacing. I had supplied the building club 3 power packs to run the 3 bread board test jigs. These are transformer ones not switch mode ones. One of the 40 meter builders had installed it on his test jig and had measured the power out voltage.

The unloaded volts was 17 volts.

So I decided that what we would do is, we would add a 12 volt regulator to the jig.

I supplied a piece of veroboard a 12 volt reg IC, two 100k caps and a tag strip.

This was all mounted on the front panel, ready to supply the power and earth rails to the pcb's.

As every one else was busy I assembled one of portable 40 meter loop aerials, and rummaged around in the radio shack for a aerial lead to connect the aerial to a frog radio.

I found an AV cable which is 75 ohms but it had BNC plugs on each end. That would fit the radio end but not the aerial end. One of the new hams came up with a tap connector that was used in computer net works when we had hubs and not switches.

Old computer network systems, but that would work for me, good enough for receive in an emergency.

I have now added some to my tool case.

I switched on the radio and tuned the loop for the low end of 40 meters around 7.1 Mhz. The loop was sitting up in the corner of the building on the inside and I've never heard so many signals on 40 meters in my life. There were stations everywhere and they were quite strong and one of the new hams noted " but the aerial just sitting inside leaning up against the wall ."

Well I was impressed and then someone who must have been just outside the building with a kilowatt transmitter did a tune up and I double checked to see there's anyone in the club transmitter room in case it was one of us having a go on air. The S meter read a signal strength of S20. I've never heard signals like it and it's just a two metre diameter loop inside the building.

We were all having a good night, there's groups of people everywhere all busy during their own things and I was thinking that if this is how the year starts it's gonna be quite a good year

Eric ZL2TSU

5 Mistakes That Hams Still Make When Operating DX

Operating DX (long-distance communication) is one of the most exciting aspects of amateur radio. However, even experienced operators sometimes make mistakes that can lead to frustration, missed contacts, or poor operating practices. Here are five common mistakes that hams still make when working DX and how to avoid them.

1. Not Listening Before Transmitting

One of the biggest mistakes hams make is failing to listen carefully before transmitting. Many DXpeditions and rare stations operate in a structured manner, using split frequencies or specific call procedures. Jumping in without first listening to the operating pattern can cause QRM (interference) and disrupt the flow of contacts.

Solution: Always take a moment to listen carefully. Identify how the DX station is working the pileup and follow their instructions before transmitting.

2. Calling on the DX Station's Frequency

DX stations often operate in split mode, meaning they transmit on one frequency and listen on another. A common mistake is calling on the DX station's transmit frequency instead of their listening frequency, which causes unnecessary interference and slows down the operation.

Solution: If the DX station announces "Up 5" or "Listening up," set your radio to transmit on a higher frequency (e.g., 5 kHz above their frequency) and confirm you are calling where they are listening.

3. Not Using Proper Phonetics and Timing

Poorly articulated callsigns or using non-standard phonetics can lead to confusion and repeated requests for clarification, especially in weak signal conditions. Additionally, calling too soon or out of sync with the DX station's rhythm can reduce your chances of being heard.

Solution: Use standard ITU phonetics (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, etc.) and avoid unnecessary words. Time your calls carefully—wait until the DX station acknowledges the previous QSO before transmitting.

4. Failing to Log Correctly

Logging errors, such as mistyping callsigns or logging the wrong band/mode, can create problems for confirmations and awards. Some operators also fail to check if they have already worked the station, leading to duplicate contacts that waste valuable DX time.

Solution: Use digital logging software to minimize errors and check for previous contacts before calling. Always double-check frequency and mode before logging a QSO.

5. Ignoring DX Code of Conduct

Good operating practices ensure fair and efficient DX operations. Unfortunately, some hams still ignore the DX Code of Conduct by tuning up on the DX frequency, arguing over the air, or causing intentional interference (jamming). These behaviours create a poor experience for everyone.

Solution: Follow the DX Code of Conduct. Operate with patience, courtesy, and efficiency. Avoid disruptive behaviour, and help create a better operating environment for all hams.

Final Thoughts

DXing is a rewarding part of amateur radio, but avoiding these common mistakes will help improve your success rate and contribute to a better experience for everyone. By listening carefully, operating correctly, and respecting good operating practices, you'll enjoy more DX contacts and earn the respect of fellow operators.

Is the Tension Between Hams and CBers Just a Myth?

For decades, a supposed rivalry has existed between amateur radio operators (hams) and CB (citizens band) radio users. Stories circulate about hams looking down on CBers, while CBers view hams as elitist rule-followers. But is this tension real, or is it largely a myth perpetuated by outdated stereotypes?

The Origins of the Divide

The tension between hams and CBers likely stems from the history and structure of each service.

Amateur radio requires a license, technical knowledge, and adherence to regulations. Operators can use a variety of frequency bands, build their own equipment, and even communicate internationally.

CB radio, in contrast, was designed for ease of access—no license required, 40 channels in the 27 MHz band, and a simple plug-and-play system. It became especially popular in the 1970s among truckers and hobbyists.

Many hams see CB as a more chaotic, unregulated environment filled with overpowered transmitters, illegal amplifiers, and informal communication styles. Meanwhile, CBers sometimes feel that hams are overly rigid, dismissive of CB radio, and too focused on rules and regulations.

A Shift in Perception

Over the years, the landscape of radio communication has changed. The once-stark divisions have softened for several reasons:

Crossover Operators – Many hams started out on CB before getting licensed, and some licensed hams still use CB for local communication.

Common Interests – Both groups share a love of radio, DXing (long-distance communication), and experimenting with antennas.

Emergency Communication – Both hams and CBers have provided crucial assistance during disasters, proving the value of both services.

Despite this, some old attitudes remain, especially among those who have been in the hobby for decades. But among newer generations of operators, there seems to be far less of the rivalry that was once common.

CB Today: A Changing Hobby

CB radio has seen a resurgence due to new FM capabilities in some regions, and a growing appreciation for off-grid communication. Prepper communities, off-roaders, and truckers still rely on CB, and some radio enthusiasts are embracing both CB and amateur radio as complementary tools rather than competing factions.

At the same time, amateur radio is evolving, incorporating digital modes and new technologies. Some hams have realized that CB isn't the "lawless wasteland" they once thought, and CBers are seeing that hams aren't just rule-obsessed regulators.

Conclusion: Myth or Reality?

The idea of a deep-seated rivalry between hams and CBers is largely a myth today. While differences exist, they are more about regulatory structure and tradition than outright animosity. The overlap in interests, combined with the realities of modern communication, has blurred the lines between these two groups.

Instead of rivalry, there's an opportunity for mutual respect—CBers appreciating the technical depth of ham radio, and hams recognizing CB as a practical and fun communication tool. At the end of the day, both hobbies are about connecting people through the airwaves, and that's what really matters.

Hawkes Bay AREC Group

The year has started off with it's normal pace, a quiet life until School starts back then the regular Wednesday morning scheds at Civil Defence started up, our first training for the year happened last week and then two events on the same day. One was an NZART event that saw a number of AREC team helping out, the Jock White Field Day and the other was the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust open day. By all accounts both events were very successful and it is a tribute to the members that we were able to do justice to them.

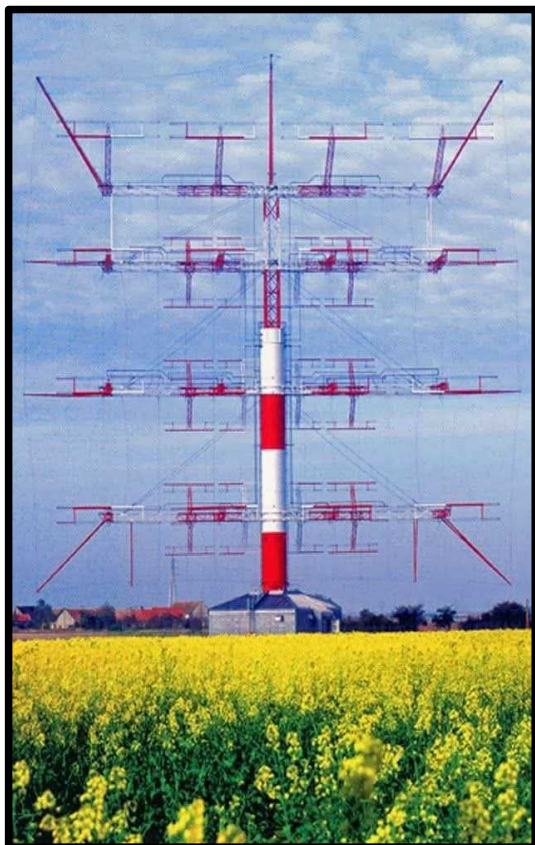
We also farewelled the Regional Manager, Simon ZL2TSO. He has sold a business to a Canadian company and has to spend time helping them set up. Thanks to Simon, among other things, we have a lot of new radios that were really needed, highlighted by Cyclone Gabrielle.

The AREC Committee met late in January and has a meeting lined up next week. Some exciting things are happening, not least we are finally going to get one of the trailers set up in a new configuration. Initially we will be seeking a quote to get the work done, then we will look for funding to cover that so not going to be a five minute job but will be well worth it in the end.

Our membership is currently 28, with room for more. We are a very diverse bunch with a great vibe with a lot of commitment from the individual members. Some able to put in more than others but most giving what they can when they can and that is all we can ask of them.

If you are interested in having a look at what we do, contact one of us and you will be welcome to one of our trainings to see what we do. We do the first Tuesday which is normally part of a wider group at CD then we do the third Wednesday which is normally held in the Napier Branch Club Rooms in Latham Street. If you wanted to come and have a look the third Wednesday would be the one to come to.

John Newson ZL2VAF/ZL2EXA



Weekend Project

This is a photo of my proposed weekend antenna job. May have some problems with Locals, Council and RMS

Details:

6 TO 30 MHz
0 to 500 KW s
Either 4x4 or 2x2 Yagi IE 4
Horizontal and 4 Vertical or the same for 2x2
Rotatable

Blair ZL2BFO

Te Puke Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Branch 53 of NZART

MARKET DAY 2025

Saturday March 8th, 2025

Paengaroa Community Hall

4 Old Coach Road, Paengaroa.

Venue opens for Vendors at 6.30am

Table Prices

Pre-Sale 1.8 Table \$20.00

On The Day 1.8 Table \$25.00

Pre-Sale ½ Table \$12.00

On The Day ½ Table \$15.00

Sale time 9.30am

Door Charge \$2.00 per person.

Bank Account for Table Payment

03—0474—0030113—00

Use Your Call Sign As Reference.

For further information contact

ZL1LWR Syd Rowe (07) 533 1029 or 027 248 8664,

Email: sydrowe@xtra.co.nz

Breakfast available from 7.30am to

11.00am at reasonable prices.