

# 2KO TIMES

Next Club Night: Wednesday July 6, 7.30 PM

Staff Sergeant July Taylor, acting Company Warrant Officer of 1st NZ Signals Regiment, Royal New Zealand Signals Corps and based at Linton, will come along to our next meeting with a group of colleagues and tell us about modern army communications, including:

- An introduction to army HF communications including 3G, link establishment and link quality analysis
- Introduction to VHF communications
- Data transfer including text, images, e-mail, and
- Antenna systems.

S/Sgt Taylor is also planning to bring some of their equipment along with them, including a Pinzgauer LOV FFR, which to the uninitiated means Light Operations Vehicle fitted for radio.

We have invited fellow amateurs from surrounding districts to share in this talk so let's hope for a good turnout.

It might be sensible to share transport this night and reduce the number of cars outside our clubrooms as we will need to reserve the concrete pad for our guests' vehicle. Alternatively, park near the Smallbore clubrooms. It might also be prudent to arrive early to secure a seat. Hopefully Peter has bought the new plastic chairs. First in gets the padded chairs.

## From the laptop of the Secretary

The committee have resolved to get rid of most of the old furniture out of the clubrooms (excepting two of the most comfortable padded chairs) and buy some more of the green plastic stackable chairs.

We now have five people interested in the Training Scheme, and we have three Wouxun handhelds for the trainees. The HHs will allow trainees to use the radio either simplex or through the PRS repeater and get used to good radio procedure, hopefully. Refer to past issues for a rundown on the Training Scheme.

Thirty people had prebooked for the 25 June dinner at the Cloverlea Tavern. In the event, more than 30 attended (we had to set an extra table) and it was a great night.

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- President - Richie ZL2KP
- Secretary - Cheryl ZL2VCC
- AREC Section Leader - Len ZL2LI
- Editor - Hugh ZL2BFB

## Editorial

Greetings to you all.

It feels like winter has finally hit us so I guess that many of us will spend more time in the shack or workshop making things and keeping contacts on 80 m and higher frequency bands. Maybe even on 160 m. How about a club construction project? We discussed this last year but so far haven't come up with a suitable project. If you are interested in a small portable CW transceiver, you could do little better than visiting Dave Benson's (K1SWL) website <http://www.smallwonderlabs.com/> and have a look at the Rockmite. I've built two of these kits (one for 80 m and one for 40 m) and they work well. Construction is not too difficult either. They are a great little rig and have a built-in variable-speed keyer. Just the goods for camping or tramping and cost USD 32.00). There's other designs of small transceiver there and they also offer a small frequency counter kit with a cw 'readout' (USD 27.00). Alternatively, if anybody is interested in building Eric ZL2BMI's DSB transceiver based around an NE602/SE612 double balanced mixer chip and a small RF amp using only two transistors, then contact me for details. This rig features in a recent issue of SPRAT magazine (UK QRP club's newsletter) and also Dave ZL2NJ's ZL QRP group newsletter. Cost is less than the Rockmite and you can talk over it as well as using CW. I know of four build and being used in NZ.

The NZART conference at Upper Hutt during Queen's Birthday weekend was a well-organized affair and there were a number of interesting talks given, not the least was ZL2Max's refresher on APRS which went down very well with the APRS enthusiasts. Cheryl and I were your delegates to the conference ably assisted by Max.

The weekend began with the AGM which at times got one or two of the participants a bit grumpy. In fact, one fellow from the South Island became quite rude and abusive towards two of his Wellington fellow amateurs and demonstrated that he hadn't read the Amateurs' Code in the ARRL handbook. Apparently it related to what had been, or should have been, minuted at NZART meetings. Some discussion had been held "in committee". This particular discussion ended with a motion of no confidence in Chairman Roy, which was defeated. Ho hum! Anybody for the Nelson conference next year?

Remits took up a large part of the proceedings— there were thirteen in all with ours being No. 13. This was introduced just before lunchtime, at which stage we withdrew it. Being lunchtime this was met with applause! As you will have read, our remit was intended to instruct Council to recognise formal qualifications in radio and electronics and exempt Amateur Radio Examination candidates from those parts of the exam that they are qualified in. Council, through Chairman Roy, advised us that they already did this and should our remit go ahead and be defeated then Council would stop applying recognition of prior learning (RPL). So we formally withdrew our Remit 13 at the conference. Ian ZL2IAN is continuing to liaise with Council and advising and assisting them with application of RPL. You will be able to read in Break-In all about the success or otherwise of the other remits I expect.

Regards

Hugh ZL2BFB

## Don't forget

### **Kiwi Digital Modes Net Thursday Nights at 8:30 pm - 9:15 pm**

This event is held each week.

**Location:** 3.635.00 LSB +/- QRM

This net is for the purpose of helping those who want to experiment and get in to using digital modes. The net is run on SSB phone and switches over to various digital modes as required by those who check in.



## President's Column - - From Richie ZL2KP



### **AGM**

Our annual general meeting is coming up very soon. This is your chance to have your say and elect those you feel will best serve the members of Manawatu Amateur Radio Society (NZART Branch 20). Consider what you can do to serve your club. All club offices are available for nomination, and any club member can serve office in the Manawatu Amateur Radio Society if elected.

### **Being Prepared**

To follow on from last month where I discussed being prepared, I am looking at ideas to allow us all to learn more about the organisations we support with communications under the AREC/Ham Radio banner. Now I know you guys all know how to use a radio, but what do we know about these organisations? I mean, how do they work, what do they require of us and how do they expect us to deliver when the chips are down?

To this end we are looking at what options we have to learn more about Search And Rescue, Civil Defence and what exactly are our roles in AREC. Watch this space for information on guest speakers for branch meetings in the future as we begin to investigate this further.

### **Web Site**

Many hams in the greater area including non members miss out on the activities being organised by the Manawatu Amateur Radio Society because:

1. They are unaware of the events or
2. Events occur before they realise it.

If you are a member of the Manawatu Amateur Radio Society, you should already be getting our newsletter and also receiving reminders and notifications of activities by e-mail. If you are a member and are not receiving the newsletter then please contact our Treasurer, Pete ZL2AUB, from the ZL2KO website using the [contact us](#) page. If you are not a member then I encourage you to visit the ZL2KO [website](#) and subscribe to our monthly newsletter if you have not already done so. This newsletter is available to anyone who wants it via e-mail and at no cost This includes non hams as well as organisations. In addition to the Newsletter you will also receive advance notification by e-mail of Branch 20's organised activities as well as reminders of upcoming events.

Cheers  
Richie – ZL2KP / VK2IAX

**Richard Prior**  
**President - Manawatu Amateur Radio Society**

## Item of interest

From the **Free Neighborhood Newsletter**, November 2010, Orangecrest/Mission/Woodcrest, California.

"Let's put our senior citizens in jail and the criminals in nursing homes.

This way, the seniors would have access to showers, hobbies and walks. They'd receive free prescriptions, dental and medical treatment, wheel chairs and they'd receive money instead of paying it out.

They would have constant video monitoring so they could be helped instantly if they fell or needed assistance.

Bedding would be washed twice a week and all clothing would be ironed and returned to them.

A guard would check on them every 20 minutes and bring their meals and snacks to their cells. They would have family visits in a suite built for that purpose.

They would have access to a library, weight room, spiritual counselling, pool and education. Simple clothing, shoes, slippers, pyjamas and legal aid would be free on request.

Private secure rooms for all with an exercise outdoor yard with gardens. Each senior could have a PC, TV, radio and daily phone calls. There would be a board of directors to hear complaints and guards would have a code of conduct that would be strictly adhered to.

Were we to put the criminals in a nursing home, they would get cold food, be left all alone and unsupervised. Lights would go off at 8pm and they would get showers once a week. They would also live in a tiny room and pay \$5000.00 per month and have no hope of ever getting out.....Justice?

## Two websites of interest

I came across this website when browsing the internet some time ago. It's a whole electronics course, and looks to me to be polytech level with some of it at university level (e.g. Fourier Transforms and complex numbers). Cut and paste the url into your web browser and have a browse: <http://www.101science.com/Radio.htm>

The website contains basic information that an amateur would be expected to know, and has links to other sources of information, including video clips. From what I've seen it's certainly worth a browse, perhaps more if you want to improve your knowledge of electronics or carry out some extra study for the Amateur Operator's Certificate.

Another interesting website is the Instructables website, <http://www.instructables.com>. I came across this one when I was trying to find out how to convert an old PC PSU into a 12 V supply. The website contains many 'blogs' on how to make gadgets and things, (some look a bit dodgy—like the aforesaid PSU) but some of the information is rather good. Worth a browse if you've nothing better to do (after you've visited the 2KO website, of course).

Ed.

M.A.R.S

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### Upcoming Meetings

6th July 2011 - General Meeting

15th July 2011 - Committee Meeting

22nd July 2011 - Afternoon Meeting

Sunday morning net is at 9am on 3.570 kHz LSB

### Netmasters

July 10th: Paul ZL2BEQ See page 3 of this issue for the latest roster.

## Branch 20 Contact Information

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