

2KO TIMES

Next Meeting: Wednesday December 7, 7.30 PM

We will have an informal general meeting on Wednesday 7 December. Peter ZL2AUB has a DVD about Bletchey Park from a BBC2 programme. It is about 50 minutes long and covers both the Enigma machine and the "Tunny" (Lorenz Code Machine). If we start a few minutes early (say 7.15 pm) there will be time for a cuppa and feed. So bring a plate!!

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From the laptop of the Secretary

From the laptop of the Secretary

The income from the Table Sale was well down this year so there are lessons to learn. We will also try to obtain a donated raffle prize instead of spending our own money.

The next committee meeting will be 25th January as there is no committee meeting in December.

We have also confirmed that we will be returning to Kopane School for the Jock White Field day

When running the clubrooms on the generator the mains meters are show power usage. Chester will get the electrician who originally set this up to check it as we shouldn't pay for electricity we generate.

There was some discussion about the proposed repeater at Mataroa. The only cost to us will be the cost of the licence. The Committee agreed to proceed and the contract has been signed and returned to Teamtalk.

AREC

The Secretary is to purchase a \$20 petrol voucher and send it to Brian Purdie to thank him for coming and speaking to us about AREC matters recently.

The ICOM HF set has not yet been received. It is still with John Yaldwin being programmed with up to 20 frequencies. John reckons he will get some time over Christmas to finish the job. The VHF handhelds are still with Jeff Sayer. Three members attended the North range road evening SAR exercise on 19th October. The remote repeater used contained wrong frequencies which caused some issues. However, these were overcome and the exercise was successful. The checking of SAR radio equipment should be regularly reviewed.

2KO Contact Info

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- Email - info@zl2ko.org.nz
- President - Richie ZL2KP
- Secretary - Cheryl ZL2VCC
- AREC Section Leader - Len ZL2LI
- Editor - Hugh ZL2BFB

AREC gear at the clubrooms was inspected recently and petrol for the generator was bought and is stored for emergency use. There are some issues around storing petrol that relate to fire safety regulations and to insurance that need to be looked at. The Committee agreed that we should investigate fireproof storage for the petrol. It was reported that there was little support for the Daybreaker rally from this Branch.

CD radio

The 2m radio in EOC has been causing issues. It works OK on 7125 but cannot receive 6700.

The radio has been checked by Scott and it is OK, so the problem must either be the aerial or interference. Cheryl ZL2VCC to discuss with CD management to get someone to rectify the problem. Scott has offered to investigate, but we are unsure whether PNCC has an agreement with Adamson and Holland for gear maintenance.

Editorial

Greetings,

"Amateur Radio is silent now – its keys stilled, its microphones lifeless. Dust gathers in scores of thousands of radio shacks,..." A prophecy? Perhaps, but hopefully not in our lifetime. Actually, I have been browsing through some old books as I attempt to clean up my shack. The above quote came from the Radio Amateur's Handbook 1944 (my uncle gave me the book when I was about age ten). The quote continues: "their operators off to war. ..."

When the Americans came into WWII in 1941 of course all amateur activity ceased there as it had done earlier in the other allied countries. The rest of the article went on to say that even though Amateur Radio was silent, it was not dead because many of the amateurs were working in the services either as operators or training others.

It is now summer and Christmas and holidays are looming, and possibly with people travelling away on holiday there may be less activity on our bands, despite improving propagation for the higher bands, and radio shacks may become silent if only temporarily. Of course people will work mobile and others will take their QRP rigs away on holiday, as I will, and throw up portable aerials and keep in contact with various friends. During the holidays remember, if you are working mobile please don't get distracted from your driving during long QSOs and become a danger to other road users. As this will be the last 2KO Times for the year let me wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year break and safe travelling, and we will see and hear you all refreshed in the New Year.

Two more things:

An article I read in the Dominion Post a few weeks ago caught my eye. It was reported that two Manawatu soldiers had been awarded a US Meritorious Service Medal by the United States Government for services rendered overseas. One of the soldiers was Staff Sergeant July Taylor of Linton who earlier in the year with some of his colleagues spoke about and showed us some of their radio equipment. Congratulations to Staff Sergeant Taylor.

Next year our first newsletter will be a January–February combined issue and published at the end of January. The following issue will be the March issue published at the end of February, and the last and eleventh (December) issue will come out at the end of November. This way, the Newsletter will be early rather than late.

73

Hugh ZL2BFB

President's Page - -
From Richie ZL2KP



It is a crazy time of the year for us in the southern hemisphere, not only is it the Christmas break but it is also the extended end of year summer holiday. For the working person this means that much needs completing before annual leave can be taken, together with Christmas preparation. This last month has seen me very busy with work in Sydney, with a number of days away in Melbourne and later in Albury on the border of NSW and Victoria. The good news is I will be back in the Manawatu in the next few days for December and most of January.

Some interesting news from the Ministry of Economic development:

<http://www.rsm.govt.nz/cms/licensees/types-of-licence/general-user-licences/amateur-radio-operators>

- The Ministry has agreed to a request from the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART) that the general power limit for Amateur bands be increased.
- From 30 November 2011, the power limit for most bands rose from 500 watts to 1000 watts peak envelope power (pX), as defined in ITU Radio Regulation 1.157.

This request from NZART arose after a remit was discussed at conference recently. Since many do not operate QRO it will have little impact, however for those desiring DX on the lower HF bands it can make those few DB improvement to have you heard above the noise.

I know I have written in my annual report that we should not be looking for what we can get from our membership of NZART, but to be a member so we support each other and our interest in Ham Radio. It is true that NZART needs us so it can continue to pursue the common cause, so if you have not already done so get your membership subscriptions into NZART so they can continue to represent you and me. This reminds me that I need to get my annual sub paid when I get back, and I promise I will.

For those travelling and have 80 metre capability when away, remember to check in on 3.570 at any time. You may be surprised who is listening.

Finally, I would like to see you all at the Beano at the Awapuni Hotel on the 9th, if you haven't registered yet contact either Hugh ZL2BFB or Pete ZL2AUB.

Cheers for this month. See you all at the Beano.

Richie ZL2KP - VK2IAX

Richard Prior

President - Manawatu Amateur Radio Society

Progress on the clubrooms

Len and helper(s) have made progress on the clubrooms extension. It's planned to clad the extension this week so we should be using the new amenity by Christmas.



Website of interest

Want a cheap bench power supply? Modify a junked computer PSU. Have a look at the following website. Alternatively Google "modifying computer power supplies". Just be careful as 230 V can be lethal.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Convert-a-Computer-ATX-Power-Supply-to-a-Lab-Power-Supply>

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.

At the last branch meeting

James from InSPire Net told us about how he got started and what challenges he faced initially. Very interesting talk from one of Palmerston North's own entrepreneurs.

Don't forget that this event is this week.

Christmas Function

When: Friday 9 December

Where: House Bar, Awapuni Motor Inn, Pioneer Highway. Ample parking is available in front of the liquor store next door on the town side.

Time: Doors open at 6 PM. Drinks at 6.30 PM, dinner at 7 PM.

Cost (not including drinks): \$35.00 per head for the two-course meal.

We now have about thirty members and partners booked in. If you are planning to come along make sure that Pete ZL2AUB or Hugh ZL2BFB have your names as we need to give definite numbers to the Awapuni by Thursday of this week.

Next afternoon meeting: Wednesday February 22 at 2 PM
Doors open 1.30 PM

No guest speaker has yet been decided upon.

As John ZL2ADN has retired from organising the Wednesday afternoon sessions the job is up for grabs. So, if you have some ideas of how to keep the members occupied and interested once a month either with guest speakers, including our own club members, or some other activity then the committee would like to hear from you. Phone one of the committee members from the list on the last page of the Newsletter.

ZL2KO Roster

Nov 6th ZL2AUB

Nov 20th ZL2BJA

Dec 4th ZL2ADN

Dec 18th ZL2IAN

Jan 1st ZL2BEQ

Jan 15th ZL2IAN

Jan 29th ZL2RMH

Feb 12th ZL2ADN

Feb 26th ZL2FE

Nov 13th ZL2BEQ

Nov 27th ZL2RMH

Dec 11th ZL2BPX

Dec 25th ZL2AUB

Jan 8th ZL2BJA

Jan 22nd ZL2BPX

Feb 5th ZL2LI

Feb 19th ZL2AUB

de Pete ZL2AUB

M.A.R.S

Manawatu Amateur Radio
Society
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Website: www.z12ko.org.nz

Upcoming Meetings

7th December 2011 - General Meeting

9th December Christmas Function

No committee meeting this month

Sunday morning net is at 9am on 3.570 kHz LSB

Netmasters

December 11th: Shirley ZL2BPX. See page 5 of this issue for the latest roster.

Branch 20 Contact Information

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