

2KO TIMES

Next Meeting: Wednesday November 2, 7.30 PM

James from InSPire Net is going to talk about how he got started, what challenges he faced initially, with InSPire Net's growth, and a little about what building blocks there are to an Internet service provider, UPS's, etc, etc.

From the laptop of the Secretary

Table Sale result

A bit more than \$600 profit arose from table sale, largely from the kitchen activities.

Towers, and club room extension

Stu suggested that we organize a day to drop our tower and fix the rotator. Also to drop Rob ZL2RNN's tower, and also have a BBQ lunch This is to make it more like a social event so more people might turn up. A date of Nov 5th for the antenna work is proposed. We will purchase sausages, onions, sauce, bread etc. To be finalised at the 2nd Nov Branch Meeting.

Fox Hunt Gear

Pete ZL2AUB contacted a Chinese company regarding our buying some VHF foxhunt gear. The units were \$95 each and \$190 for freight. Comparable kits from other suppliers were more expensive. It is intended that the gear will be used at Jota, open days, schools...Stu and Pete are going to further investigate suppliers.

QHUG

Richard ZL2KP has had a number of responses, saying that the site of the former Post Office Himatangi radio station would be the best place for a Super DX station. Jim Williamson property at Waituna is another possibility. Current landowners to be contacted.

Activity Contest

Chester will pick up and organize this event if Len is not able to do it. Date is 14-20 November.

CD Repeater

The CD repeater is in the process of being relocated to a site near our repeater on North Range Road. At the present it is in the EOC in PNCC having been moved from its former Chorus location on the south side of the gorge.

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2KO Contact Info

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

Editorial

Greetings,

I was tramping a couple of weeks ago in the upper Oroua River and about three hours into the trip somebody asked me how far it was to the hut. I got my GPS out and turned it on (I was saving the batteries) and waited for the GPS to 'find' itself. The last time it was on was at home and it takes time for the instrument to receive the signals from the available satellites and calculate where it is. Well I waited and waited but still no luck. It just wasn't 'seeing' any satellites. In the end I gave up and continued walking to the hut which we reached a short time later. At the hut I placed the GPS on a rock to let it figure out where it was and ate my lunch. Half an hour later it was time to return to the road end but the GPS still had received signals from only two satellites—not enough to plot a waypoint. So I turned it off and we returned to our transport three hours away.

I have discovered before that at certain times of the year there can be few GPS satellites over NZ depending on the time of day. Also, the Oroua River valley is rather narrow (few satellites available at the best of times) and well-vegetated – wet canopy can attenuate the weak timing signals from the satellite. So what has any of this to do with Amateur Radio? Well, not a great deal except to show that modern equipment does not always work when expected and one may have to 'go back to the basics'. In my case this would be the topographic map and a watch (we always carry these, of course), noting how many hours we had walked and what our expected progress would be, given the terrain.

But back to Amateur Radio. How often do we find that we can't communicate effectively on SSB owing to interference or fading? Particularly on 80 m during late morning. A remedy is, of course, to change to CW at least for the duration of the QRM/N or QSB (and not just to crank up the output power). Or when the power goes off and we don't have a large enough battery to run the big transceiver? Get out the QRP rig and run it off AA batteries or a small gel cell. Or when a storm breaks the driven element off the tribander atop the 15 m - high tower? Throw up the portable dipole and away you go! (Richie's Column in the May issue of this year (p 3) is relevant here).

It's not all bad news though, when technology fails us. When the power goes off in the neighbourhood and all those plasma TVs go dead, wheel out that little QRP rig and make good use of the low-noise conditions.

One more thing:

Did you know that the late Col. Muammar Gaddafi was once a Signals Captain? I read this in a recent obituary. This was in the early 1960s about the same time he attended the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and before he led the coup in 1969 that deposed King Idris I. However, I think it's safe to assume that he wasn't also an amateur: Gaddafi's behaviour over the past 40 years hardly complied with the Amateurs' Code as outlined by Richie on P4 of the August issue of 2KO Times.

73, Hugh ZL2BFB

Activity contest

When: 14th November–20th November from 6 pm to 9 pm.

Where: 147.125 Repeater & 80m 3.570 khz

Remember that you can only work one station on 2m or one on 80m per day.

Refer to website for more details and for scoresheets

President's Page - -
From Richie ZL2KP



The ZL2SGA Training Scheme has borne its first fruit during October, and many of you will have already heard these three new callsigns active on 2 metres already. I am very pleased to welcome into the ranks of Ham Radio, Darren ZL2DAZ, Jason ZL2JSN and Matt ZL2PR who all passed their exam recently. Now that you guys have your licences the real opportunity to learn and have fun just begins.

Over recent weeks the higher HF bands have been open and the real fun is to see 10 metres open, as this band allows for amazing DX with modest equipment, antenna and power. If you are not a regular on 10 metres you might look at the large band allocation we have and wonder where to watch. If you have a chance catch up with Pete ZL2AUB and he will fill you in on a few spots on 10 metres to listen out for, then programme these frequencies into your radio's memories if you have them. Here are some 10 metre frequencies I extracted from Peter earlier:

- 28.120 PSK31 and other digimodes
- 28.475 SSB DX calling frequency
- 28.500 SSB DX alternative calling frequency

28.800 10 / 10 net frequency - <http://www.ten-ten.org>

- 29.600 FM calling frequency
- 29.300 Japanese FM calling frequency, then go down 20 kHz for other channels i.e. 29.280 29.260 etc
- 29.050 – 29.200 AM
- 29.225 Manawatu FM simplex
- FM repeater outputs are on 29.610, 29.620, etc up to 29.690. The repeater input is 100 Khz down, i.e. 29.510, 29.520 etc. If you can hear a repeater well but are having trouble being heard or seem to be unable to trigger the repeater, it may be there is a CTCSS tone required. An Internet search could yield more information.
- 29.700 10 metre band upper limit

Cheers

Richie ZL2KP - VK2IAX

Richard Prior

President - Manawatu Amateur Radio Society

Websites of interest

You will have heard Bob ZL2RMH talking about the intelligent microscope project (refer to the website (you'll need to copy and paste: <http://www.classifynder.com>). In this context something notable has just occurred...! This is to let you know about the *Pollen Under the Microscope* video viewable at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFRU0erMAvM> . This was recently released in association with the "*Pollen Under the Microscope Exhibition*" held at the CSIRO Discovery Centre in Canberra. This site also worth a visit if you ever get the opportunity to do so.

CSIRO are one of Massey's customers, and collaborators and made this YouTube video as part of its communications programme. Note that the video is best played fullscreen. Note also that there are other interesting scientific videos advertised on the website.

There are intelligent microscopes in use at CSIRO as well as the universities of Bergen (2), Oxford, Leeds, Belfast, and one is about to be delivered to Exeter. There is another at Bishops University in Canada. This work at Massey was briefly discussed on p.5 of the July issue of 2KO Times.

There are also interesting websites referred to in the Morseman pages in *Break-In*. Try these three, from the May-June and July-August issues. Signals from the Titanic: <http://www.titanic-lore.info/Wireless-shack.htm> and the deleted radio room scene from the film: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8PLDqqdpu0> Also, from the Titanic TV miniseries: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=v000E6fNX2vk&feature=related>

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

Pete showed the DVD "The Spies who lost the Battle of Britain". The bit I found particularly interesting was where the Germans admitted after the war that they did not realise that Britain was using radar. This arose from their 'spying mission' in an airship around the British coastline listening for the sound of any British radar transmissions. They were listening for the sorts of audio tones that their own rather advanced radar sounded like on the air but all they heard were rough 25 Hz clicks and buzzes from the rather 'crude' British radar system, which they thought was mains interference, but actually were radar pulses at 25 Hz, synchronised to half the mains frequency. The implications that this had for German bombing of the British coastal radar antennas was enormous. If you missed seeing this DVD then try and borrow a copy and view it. It's well worth it.

Thanks to Pete ZL2AUB for supplying the video.

Mark this coming event in your diary:

Christmas Function

When: Friday 9 December

Where: House Bar, Awapuni Motor Inn, Pioneer Highway. Ample parking is available in front of the liquor 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.

So far, we have seven members and partners booked in. **Enrol early!**

Next afternoon meeting: Wednesday January 25 at 2 PM
Doors open 1.30 PM

ZL2KO Roster

Oct 23rd ZL2ADN

Nov 6th ZL2AUB

Nov 20th ZL2BJA

Dec 4th ZL2ADN

Dec 18th ZL2IAN

Jan 1st ZL2BEO

Jan 15th ZL2IAN

Jan 29th ZL2RMH

Feb 12th ZL2ADN

Feb 26th ZL2FE

Oct 30 ZL2FE

Nov 13th ZL2BEO

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

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Society
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Upcoming Meetings

2nd November 2011 - General Meeting

9th November 2011 - Committee Meeting

No Afternoon Meeting this month

Sunday morning net is at 9am on 3.570 kHz LSB

Netmasters

November 6th: Pete ZL2AUB. See page 5 of this issue for the latest roster.

Branch 20 Contact Information

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|-----------------------------------|--|
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