

# 2KO TIMES

Next Meeting: Wednesday February 1, 7.30 PM

Our first general meeting for 2012 is on Wednesday 1 February. Ian ZL2IAN will show a powerpoint presentation and talk about his and Shirley's recent trip to South America.

## Editorial

### Greetings, and Happy New Year to you all.

May I draw your attention to our President's Page this month where Richie outlines some of our forthcoming branch activities. Also, read the page 5 article about the Titanic centenary kindly provided by Allan ZL2SKY. This is early notice as the event takes place from 10-15 April and is a must for CW enthusiasts. Also, have a look at this month's Website of Interest. Get your CW speed up so you can read the April 'Titanic' CW (and operate CW at the upcoming Field Day). Of course you can use the Morseman's program, 'Teach', on your computer to practice with but with ebook2cw you can choose your own text of interest to you and listen while you are gardening or mowing the lawns. Probably not a good idea to listen whilst driving though!

I was interested by the story of the Lorenz Code in the DVD Pete showed in December. Interested enough to go home and try encoding a few Baudot Code characters by 'adding' the corresponding bits of another character (the key) to obtain the encoded character. Then converting back to the original character by 'adding' the same key to the encoded character. Of course the process is not addition but rather a variant of the Exclusive Or function (XOR) from Boolean Logic. You can do the encoding by two slightly different ways: in the video the commentator said that the encoded character contained a mark bit wherever the corresponding input and key bits were the same, and a space bit where they were different (i.e. an equality function). In Boolean Logic we would say the encoded output bits were true when both corresponding input bits were the same, either both true or both false. Otherwise the output bits are false. The system also works using the real XOR function which is simply a bit reversal of the above. Try it. What I like about the Lorenz Cipher is that exactly the same operation is done to decode the cipher as it is to encode the original text, i.e. no reversing. Actually, Gilbert Vernam invented this encryption method in the AT&T Bell Labs in 1917. Google "Lorenz code" to find out more. Although Lorenz (also teleprinter makers) had Vernam's work to go on, the clever part was to get a (mechanical) machine to do the work as fast as one could type on a teleprinter. Beats two people laboriously using the Enigma machine to encrypt messages letter by letter. All this reminds me of Giovanni's digital electronics course he ran here in the 1980s that a number of us attended.

Regards, Hugh ZL2BFB

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- Editor - Hugh ZL2BFB

## William Johnston (John) Cleland 5th January 1930—28th December 2011

John died on 30 December 2011 having suffered ten heart attacks over many years. He was born in Northern Ireland and grew up near Belfast along with a younger brother and a sister. When John was four his mother died and his father, a stonemason, brought up the three children. His father later remarried and added two more brothers to the family.

John passed the examination to attend secondary school, but left school at 12 as his father could not afford the fees. He worked on local farms as part of the war effort until he could legally get a job at age 14, and eventually completed a painting and decorating apprenticeship. In 1951, with work scarce in Northern Ireland, John decided to emigrate to New Zealand.

After arriving in New Zealand six weeks or so later John began working as a painter and decorator in Palmerston North. Soon after, his younger brother joined him and the two began their own painting and paperhanging business which flourished. John had an active life, one of his accomplishments being the holder of



the record for cycling between Palmerston North and Himatangi corner, a record that apparently still stands.

In 1954 John married Colleen and they had a son who died a short time later. Despite having no more children of his own John became a surrogate father to his many nephews and nieces. Work kept the family busy with Colleen running the business phone and managed the books, while his Sister-in-Law looked after the wages. Later, John's two youngest brothers also emigrated to Palmerston North and joined the business, now named Cleland Brothers Ltd.

In 1960 John was given a 35 mm camera and darkroom equipment to settle a house-painting debt and he began acquiring and honing his photographic skills which lead to his long career as a professional photographer. He also joined the Manawatu Camera Club and learned to take good photographs, and develop and print them, winning many prizes and trophies along the way. After some voluntary work with the Palmerston North City Librarian for the city centenary, John eventually became the official centennial photographer. John spent more than 30 years working with the City Archivist on photo restoration work for the growing collection of heritage photos.

By the 1970s John was working full time from his studio attached to his house in Cook Street, recording for all time; mayors, football teams, school groups, families, theatrical productions, celebrities, politicians and weddings. He even covered two visits to Palmerston North by Queen Elizabeth for a local newspaper.

John developed an interest in amateur radio during the late 1970s, encouraged by his neighbour, Garry McDonell ZL2SO. It wasn't long before a tall lattice tower with a tribander atop appeared in Cook Street and John became active on the higher frequency bands as well as on 2 metres.

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John became active on the higher frequency bands as well as on 2 metres.

Around 2002 John and Colleen retired to the family property in Kairanga. Colleen had had a stroke some years previously and John had looked after her. Sadly, Colleen died not long after their move. Although the tower and tri-bander was absent from Kairanga there were HF wire dipoles and VHF antennas erected there. John remained active on 2 metres up until his tenth heart attack which struck shortly before Christmas putting him in hospital where he died on 30 December. John was one of the local Branch 20 members most active on our local repeater, and whenever he could he took part in the Sunday morning 80 metre branch net. He will be missed as a club member and as an amateur bands user.

Hugh ZL2BFB

President's Page - -

From Richie ZL2KP



Happy New Year to all members and friends of Branch 20.

Firstly, let me thank you, all our friends, on behalf of Mike and our family for your flowers and kind messages of sympathy on the recent sad loss of our father. We are also extremely grateful for the support a number of our members gave us by attending Dad's funeral. Sadly too, one of our long-serving members, John ZL2JC, died in December and his funeral at the family property at Kairanga was attended by a large number of people including a good many Branch 20 members. I am greatly encouraged at the strength of our club when I see the support of club members on these sad occasions.

Secondly, let me apologise for my being unable to attend our first meeting on Wednesday, but we are carrying out an important upgrade on our system here in Oz and I am required to attend. Never mind, it's always a juggling act to work in family, business, hobby and social interests and I know I have good deputies.

It's the start of a new year and we have a number of club activities including some social ones. At our first committee meeting of the year this week we drafted up a tentative calendar which will appear on our website. Firstly there's the Jock White Field Day on the February 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> at our usual site at Kopene School. The next important event in our calendar is Amateur Radio Field Day on 10<sup>th</sup> March in the Square. We need support for both of these events so you will hear more later. Social events tentatively planned include visits to the Manawatu Audio-Visual and Sound Museum (MAVTech) at Foxton in April, to the Waikanae Communications museum later in the year, to Focal Point Theatre, Feilding one afternoon or evening to view a DVD of our choosing and perhaps have a meal. Of course several shack raids and most probably a mid-year Christmas dinner are on the agenda as well. Then there are the other old favourites – VHF Field Day and the 'Junk Sale' later in the year. So keep an eye on our website calendar for upcoming events and enjoy the first meeting of the year on Wednesday. I'm sure Ian will make you better informed about South America and keep you entertained as well.

Richie ZL2KP - VK2IAX

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

**Wanted to buy:**

A pair of 40 m crystals for two QRP rigs. 7050 kHz or higher in the phone section of the 40 m band. The preferred type is HC6/U (pins 1.2 mm diam., 5 mm long and spaced 12.3 mm apart). Also a single 7040 crystal (same type) if possible.

Contact your Editor. Phone 06 356 9450.

## Titanic

**SPECIAL EVENT (Titanic Centenary – Station GR100MGY - Press Release No. 1, 23 January 2012):**

The sinking of White Star Line's RMS Titanic on 15th April 1912 sent shock-waves around the world and has touched our hearts ever since. Those who perished in this disaster will be remembered on its 100th anniversary during many commemorative events.

Within amateur radio we recognise that this event marked the first time that morse code saved so many lives at sea. Jack Phillips (1887-1912) was the liner's Chief Marconi Wireless Operator. He perished only after sending distress signals in Morse right until the ship foundered, thereby saving hundreds of lives. Jack was from Godalming, Surrey, where his heroism is constantly recalled. A group of local radio amateurs commemorated his heroism on the 90th anniversary of the sinking by setting up a radio station in Godalming with the call-sign GB90MGY. The letters 'MGY' were used by RMS Titanic for all its radio transmissions. Five years later, the Wey Valley Amateur Radio Group (WVARG), activated a similar commemorative station in Godalming, this time using GB95MGY.

For the 2012 centenary a much larger project to honour Jack's memory will be mounted in Godalming by the Wey Valley club. From Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April (when Titanic sailed from Southampton), until the day of the sinking, Sunday 15th April, two transmitters will be manned continuously, with the special call-sign GR100MGY (Godalming Remembers the Centenary of the Titanic Disaster). There will be a short pause in transmissions at 0547 GMT on the Sunday, the time when distress messages ceased minutes before the liner sank. The transmitters will make contacts around the world, mostly in Morse code, targeting 15,000 two-way exchanges. Each contact may be confirmed with a specially printed card depicting Titanic and Jack Phillips. We offer our grateful thanks to Charterhouse for providing operating facilities at their excellent Godalming location, to Ofcom for allocating the special call-sign and to Waverley Borough Council and Godalming Town Council for their support and embodying this event in their commemorative programme.

During Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th April, from 12:00 noon until 4:00pm, the general public will be welcome to visit the station to observe the transmissions and to participate in this memorable commemorative event.

For further information about Michael Shortland, GOEFO visit michaelgs1@talktalk.net

**More specifically for Amateur Radio Operators:**

Some fifteen operators will man two 400 watt transmitters on the eight HF bands from 3.5 to 28 MHz, using directional antennas. Only CW will be used except on the open days, 14-15th April, when SSB will help the public to understand the operation. Activity on VHF is also planned. QSL information can be found at: <http://www.QRZ.com>. GR100MGY will be located at 0° 37' 18" West, 51° 11' 49" North, Locator IO91qe: Charterhouse, Hurtmore Road, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 2DX.

Kindly provided by Allan ZL2SKY

## Progress on the clubrooms

Len and helpers have now completed the clubrooms extension. Cladding went on the week before Christmas and the new extension was very nicely painted by Ray ZL2RAZ. It looks great and is now being used. Thanks to all who helped.

The Committee have also approved the laying of a concrete pad outside the storeroom for the generator to sit on when it's being used. The pad will be connected to a concrete path around the rear, storeroom and bathroom sides of the building, and butted up to the concrete at the front of the building. This path will provide protection for the fibrolite cladding from the lawnmower, as well as providing a dry walking area. Watch for a notice of the work party to dig out the sods in readiness for the boxing to be laid and the concrete to be poured.



## Website of interest

Visit <http://fdurz.net/ham/ebook2cw.html>

This is a program that converts text to CW and places it in an mp3 file that you can either download to your mp3 player, Ipod etc or just leave on your computer to play from there. You can even set the output speed. Try it and practice CW for the Jock White Field Day. It really works. I've tried it. ZL2BFB

Reference The Morseman July–August 2010.

## Don't forget

### **Kiwi Digital Modes Net Thursday Nights at 8:30 pm - 9:15 pm with ZL2AUB**

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

Peter ZL2AUB showed the video about the work of Bletchley Park during WWII. It was particularly interesting to hear about the history of the place and to also hear about their well-known work breaking the German Enigma code, but also to hear about the lesser-known Lorenz encoding system which worked at the same speed as a teleprinter – about 45 wpm. Compare this to two people encoding on the Enigma machine, one character at a time.

## From the laptop of the Secretary

The date for the Jock White Field Day is 25–26 February and the venue Kopane School. Volunteers are required to organise parts of the weekend (aerials, equipment, BBQ, tents etc) and Pete ZL2AUB has agreed to oversee the lot. Amateur Radio Day this year will be 10th March and like last year will be held in the Square. We will be contacting LandSAR and Civil Defence to join in with us, and are making enquiries about getting the Fire Service's new command vehicle along as a crowd puller.

Beano: it was reported that some members had issues with the evening. For example, the venue was too small to allow people to move about freely, some of the drinks were unduly expensive, uneven-height tables caused some difficulties, and a few had issues with the quality of the food. The toilets were also hard to find after a few drinks. (Otherwise it was a good night....? Ed).

AREC: Six Icom handhelds arrived soon after New Year along with plugpacks, desk chargers, manuals and one set of cloning cables, programming software and drivers for the USB-to-serial adaptor. Len is to get Brian Purdie to help with the programming of SAR and other channels into the sets within the next week or so. Hugh reported that John Yaldwin told him in November that the long-promised Icom F7000 HF set was to be programmed up with the appropriate channels over New Year. Subsequent enquiries have revealed that this is now done and John will personally deliver it to us very soon, or failing that courier it up to us.

It was thought the SAREX will be held in March. The BBQ at the hangar, scheduled for Friday 27 January has been postponed until February owing to the police SAR team's involvement with the aftermath of the recent aircraft tragedy.

Possible forthcoming social events were discussed and are mentioned in Richie's column.

## Next afternoon meeting: Wednesday February 22 2012 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

**Jan 29<sup>th</sup> ZL2RMH**

**Feb 12<sup>th</sup> ZL2ADN**

**Feb 26<sup>th</sup> ZL2FE**

**Mar 11 ZL2BJA**

**Mar 25 ZL2IAN**

**Apr 8 ZL2RMH**

**Feb 5<sup>th</sup> ZL2LI**

**Feb 19<sup>th</sup> ZL2AUB**

**Mar 4 ZL2BEQ**

**Mar 18 ZL2AUB**

**April 1 ZL2BPX**

**April 15 ZL2LI**

de Pete ZL2AUB

## M.A.R.S

Manawatu Amateur Radio  
Society  
P.O. Box 1718  
Palmerston North

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## Upcoming Meetings

1st February 2012 - General Meeting  
15th February Committee Meeting  
22nd February Afternoon Meeting TBA

Sunday morning net is at 9am on 3.570 kHz LSB

### Netmaster

February 5<sup>th</sup>: Len ZL2LI. See page 6 of this issue for the latest roster.

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