



### **News from The Editors Desk ZL2SKY Jan/Feb 2020**

Greetings one and all. Bob Dylan penned the song “The Times They Are A Changing” back in the 1960’s and just like the title of the song, this hobby of our is always changing and moving with the times.

Awards have always been something of an interest for a lot of our fraternity with the epitome being the ARRL’s DX Honours Role of which Branch 20 has had members represented on it, the last one that I know of was the late Bryan Anderson ZL2AFT who’s memorial plaque adorns the wall of our clubrooms. To be able to work such awards can take a lifetime of dedication not only working the required stations but the follow up process of receiving QSL cards confirming the contact and as in the case of Bryan, having to post those cards to the ARRL in the USA for checking, costing him postage in both directions as well as the costs of the awards in US dollars. These days we have the ARRL’s Logbook of The World where you can upload a copy of your log in electronic form which will be matched with other users of it who have made contact with you and who have also uploaded their logbook. There are also now QSL card checkers outside the USA who are able to do this for you therefore cutting the costs associated with the postage.

In ZL we are fortunate to have two authorised ARRL QSL Card checkers, Duncan McMahon ZL3JT in Christchurch and Gary Hinson ZL2IFB in Hastings. So if you are looking at working the DXCC Award both of these guys will be able to help you out. Both Duncan & Gary can be found on the qrz.com website, and if you haven’t already registered on there might I suggest that you do. QRZ also has awards that can be worked and once again you can upload your log to it. Once you work, and apply for an award you will be emailed a confirmation and you will then log into your account and you can purchase the award that you have completed and any endorsements with it. Once again this is in US dollars but it is an alternative to the ARRL’s awards.

Now I started this months column by stating that like Bob Dylan’s song title we are moving with the times. With propagation being a necessity with our hobby, be it for HF, VHF or UHF it is still needed for those long distance communications. Now the changes that we see has largely been in the various digital modes that are available, and amateurs are constantly looking at ways of getting around this propagation thing. As an example, back in 2007 when we hosted the NZART Conference in Palmerston North which was appropriately titled “The Radio Waves Symposium”, I purchased a little blue box from one of our promoted sellers

who attended the conference which would enable me to connect my HF rig to my computer so I could get on the air and start working what was at the time the best mode around, PSK-31. I was not the only one who had one of these little blue boxes with quite a few Branch 20 members either purchasing one from the conference or placing orders for one. PSK-31 back then was relatively new and was the bees knees for beating the propagation problem.

Now skip ahead 13 years (yes that's more than one solar cycle) and we find ourselves pretty much in the same boat with band conditions as we did back then. The difference this time is you can look around the bands for PSK signals and not see or hear anything from one day to the next. So what to do this time? Well changing with the times we now have a couple of new modes at our hands these are FT8 which is similar in operation to PSK where your computer does the work for you, or the other mode which is quite similar to FT8 and that is JS8-Call. The difference is with JS8-Call you can actually have a keyboard to keyboard contact and chat with the station at the other end. Unlike FT8 which is completely automated, JS8-Call for some reason is not growing as quickly as FT8 has, so therefore your waterfall is not full of stations making it a place to operate which is good as you can see who's available. You can get a report from a station without contacting you which will see your signal and report it back to you automatically. Both modes have their advantages whether you are just looking to get the contact in the log such as FT8, or just have a good old rag chew with the station at the other end on JS8-Call.

There are awards that can be worked, the majority of which are free, and many different digital modes clubs and websites which you can become a member of. So if you are looking around the bands and think there's nothing out there to work, why not give the digital modes a try, you just never know you might enjoy it. In 23 days of operating with my latest interface I logged over 300 contacts.

73 until next time de Allan ZL2SKY



### **ZL2HQ's New QTH**



On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of November last year a group of us headed to Waitarere Beach with tools, equipment and items of destruction to erect an antenna for HF and another for 2M/70cm to get Lawry ZL2HQ back on air at his new QTH. The HF antenna was erected along the fence-line with one leg running parallel with the fence and the other going off at an angle of roughly 25 to 30 degrees. The end which ran along the fence-line was eventually tied off in the corner of his section close to the water tank and garage/workshop while the other end was supported by a very conveniently located Cabbage tree.

The lowering and raising of the antenna was done many times to enable us to get the antenna operating at an optimum frequency and low VSWR. This was made a lot easier by Giovanni ZL2GX, who brought his antenna analyser along. We started out by reducing the

overall length by about 6 inches at a time off each leg, and then after noticing small amounts of reduction in SWR, we got quite savage with it and started reducing it by 1/2 a metre at a time. The hardest part about doing this was when we started running out of length on the support cord on the end that was to be attached to the Cabbage Tree as the insulator was now starting to get to the stage where it was getting hard to get at because it was now hanging over the roof of the conservatory requiring ladder access to get at it. Eventually all was sorted and as the antenna was hoisted I decided it needed somewhat of a flag raising ceremony so I got on YouTube and played a clip of the Dambusters March, which seemed to dumbfound some of the others, hi-hi.

Once the ceremony was done with it was time to get the antenna up on the house for Lawry to get back on 2M. This process was much simpler than doing the HF setup and in no time it was time to test it all out. Thanks to Barrie ZL2BJA who was standing by at his QTH it made it easy to get a contact when testing the system out, Thanks Barrie.

With everything pretty much all done and dusted it was time for a cold one and a very nice lunch that was provided by Lady Di and Lawry's Daughters which consisted of some very nice filled rolls that they had made and capped off with some yummy Sausage Rolls. Thank you to the lovely YL's for the lunch it was appreciated.

Lady Di & Lawry now have not only a ham radio station that anybody would be pleased to operate out of but an absolutely beautiful home and grounds that anybody would be proud to call their own as can be seen by the photos i took on the day below.

All the best for the future Di & Lawry may you enjoy your new home and radio shack.

Many thanks to those who helped on the day, hopefully I haven't missed any of you out. Those in attendance were ZL2AUB, ZL2GX, ZL2BILL, ZL2LI, ZL2JML, ZL2SKY & The Director General ZL2HQ

73 de Allan ZL2SKY









**FROM THE PRESIDENT  
WARREN CRAWLEY  
ZL2FE/ZL2JML**

**Hi Everyone**

Well – it seems so long ago since Christmas and the New Year. Jock White Field Day has been and gone and now we are into our normal program.

Coming up next month is our outreach and fund raiser – Matt Smith ZL2EW with the able assistance of his son William, are organising a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Warehouse in Railway Road. This is a great opportunity to earn some funds for the club to support our deferred maintenance program but also, and more importantly, the opportunity to get exposure to a large slice of the local population as they walk past the stall. Ada ZL2ADA has been busily creating handouts and we will also be advertising our HamCram and beginners classes! The classes start on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of May and run for 11 weeks until the HamCram in mid-July.

John Charlton, a former member of the club in the 1970's has recently returned to Palmerston North from Auckland. John, has amongst his skills a background in project management, so John has offered to "Project Manage" the tidy up of our property, taking the load off some of our other members such as Len ZL2LI, Bill ZL2BILL and Pete ZL2AUB who have been the cornerstone of many of our maintenance activities in the past. Thank you John.

As you can see, there is a lot happening and we are going to need the support of all club members to make these activities a success.

Kind Regards

Warren Crawley

ZL2FE/ZL2JML

President Branch 20

As Warren ZL2FE/ZL2JML has mentioned in his column above it seems like Christmas & The New year were so long ago it is time for me to update some of the items that the Branch has been up to including some pictures from the Branch Beano, the Branch farewell Bbq for Hayden ZL2WD which was very kindly hosted by Robyn & Ross ZL1WN and an item from Warren ZL2FE/ZL2JML on SOTA activation.



**Above** Some of the attendees at the Branch 20 Beano waiting on dinner to be served. **Below Left** Lochie ZL2XD receives the trophy for Amateur of The year, **Centre** Giovanni ZL2GX & Len ZL2LI joint winners of the Constructors trophy **Right** Barrie ZL2BJA won the Stirrers Award



**Above left** John ZL2JEL is the new Sheriff for the coming year, **Centre** Bill ZL2BILL congratulates Lochie ZL2XD who was the winner of the Branch 20 Activity Contest. **Right** Pete ZL2AUB presents Lawry ZL2HQ with his certificate for being the mystery station in the Activity Contest.







**Above left** Ross ZL1WN welcomes everyone to the Bbq at his QTH. **Above right** Ross' Satellite tracking array in the foreground with one of his towers supporting one of the many beam antennas Ross has at his use behind it.

## SUMMITS ON THE AIR By Warren ZL2JML/ZL2FE

“Summits On The Air” is a growing interest in the Amateur community that combines amateur radio with tramping and getting into the outdoors. It allows those who enjoy the outdoors to take their QRP radio and set up a portable station on a summit to “activate” it. It also allows those who are not so keen or able to participate by “chasing” the summit. There are awards for both activators and chasers. Being able to quickly deploy an amateur station could be a key way we, as radio amateurs can support out community in time of natural disaster.

Members of Branch 20 and Branch 48 Whanganui have become increasingly involved with at least five activators and ten chasers amongst the ranks. Anyone wanting to know more should look up <https://www.sota.org.uk/> and make contact with Warren, ZL2FE.


**Below are some photographs of recent activations undertaken by club members.**




## UPCOMING DX OF INTEREST

2020 Mar06	2020 Mar13	Antigua	V26FP	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20191130	By IW2NEF fm IOTA NA-100; HF; SSB + digital; QSL also OK via Club Log OQRS and IK2DUW direct
2020 Mar06	2020 Mar17	Kyrgystan	EX0QR	Club Log OQRS	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200219	By R2DY R2DX RW3FB fm the south shore of Issyk Kul Lake; 160-10m; CW SSB + digital; QSL also OK via R2DX
2020 Mar06	2020 Apr01	Madeira	CT9	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200225	By DL3KWR as CT9/DL3KWR and DL3KWF as CT9/DL3KWF; HF; QSL also OK via home_call or eQSL
<b>ARRL International DX Contest, Phone</b> (Mar 7-8, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity too.						
2020 Mar07	2020 Mar13	Antigua	V26FP	IK2DUW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200103	By IW2NEF fm Jolly Harbour (IOTA NA-100); 40-10m; SSB FT8
2020 Mar08	2020 Mar27	Mauritius	3B8XF <small>NEW</small>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200303	By G3TXF; focus on 160 80m; QRV for BERU Contest; QSL via Club Log OQRS; exact start date unclear
2020 Mar08	2020 Apr09	Barbados	8P6DR	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200106	By G3RWL; 80-10m; CW; QSL also OK via Club Log OQRS (preferred) or G3RWL direct
2020 Mar09	2020 Mar18	Rodrigues I	3B9AN	Club Log OQRS	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20191216	By F8AAN 80-17m; 100w; mainly nighttime; holiday style operation; QSL also OK via F8AAN direct
2020 Mar10	2020 Mar15	New Caledonia	TX8A <small>NEW</small>	JA1GZV	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200227	By JA1GZV fm Noumea; 40-15m; CW; 100w; dipole, yagi; QSL OK B/d or QSL
2020 Mar10	2020 Mar31	Vietnam	XV9DXB	EB7DX	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200225	By HB9DXB fm Nha Trang (OK42og); 20m; CW SSB; QSL also OK via HB9DXB



						CBA w/ 2USD; end date unclear
2020 Mar11	2020 Mar15	Kuwait	9K2F	9K2RA	9K2RR 20200217	By 9K2HQ + KARS team fm Failaka I (IOTA AS-118); 80 40 30 20 15 10 17 12m; SSB CW FT8
2020 Mar12	2020 Mar21	Maldives	<a href="#">8Q7NC</a>	LoTW	F6BGC 20200211	By F6BGC fm Veligandu I (IOTA AS-013, MJ64mh); HF; SSB CW + digital; 100w; vertical; holiay style operation; QSL also OK via F6BGC direct
2020 Mar14	2020 Mar15	Belize	V31GX	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20191203	By G4SGX for BERU Contest; QRV after contest, mainly 160m
2020 Mar14	2020 Mar16	St Peter & Paul I	PQ0S	PP5BZ	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20200208	By team fm IOTA (IOTA SA-014); HF
2020 Mar14	2020 Mar28	Namibia	V5 	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200304	By KI4SVM as V5/KI4SVM; 40 20m; CW SSB; holiay style operation; QSL via KI4SVM direct or eQSL
2020 Mar15	2020 Mar31	Curacao	PJ2	LoTW	DK5ON 20200216	By DK5ON as PJ2/DK5ON; 80-6m; CW SSB RTTY FT4/8; QSL OK via Club Log OQRS and DK5ON (B/d)
2020 Mar23	2020 Apr03	Ivory Coast	<a href="#">TU2R</a>	LoTW	ON4EI 20191103	By ON7TQ ON4EI ON1DX ON6KX fm Abidjan; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY FT4 FT8; QSL via <a href="#">ON1DX Buro or OQRS via PayPal</a>
2020 Mar20	2020 Mar31	Andaman & Nicobar Is	<a href="#">VU4R</a>	M0OXO OQRS	<a href="#">425DXN</a> 20200221	By VU2ABS VU2BGS VU2DED VU2DSI VU2GHO VU2KWJ VU2NTA VU2RS VU3UFE fm Neil I (IOTA AS-001); 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY and FT8; QRV for CQ WW WPX SSB
2020 Mar25	2020 Mar30	Cayman Is	ZF2PG	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200206	By K8PGJ fm Grand Cayman; @ZF1A; 160-10m; SSB; QSL also OK via K8PGJ
<b>CQ WPX Contest, SSB</b> (Mar 28-29, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity too.						
<b>April</b>						

2020 Apr06	2020 Apr14	St Vincent	J88PI	GW4DVB	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190625	By GW4DVB fm Palm I, Grenadines (IOTA NA-025); 40-6m; mainly SSB FT8
2020 Apr10	2020 Apr13	Svalbard	<a href="#">JW</a>	DC8TM Buro	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200217	By DC8TM as JW/DC8TM fm IOTA EU-026; HF; SSB FT8
2020 Apr14	2020 May13	Guatemala	TG9BBV	VE7BV	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200115	By VE7BV; HF; holiday style operation
2020 Apr17	2020 Apr25	Philippines	DU2	LoTW	<a href="#">425DXN</a> 20200208	By SP5APW as DU2/SP5APW fm Calayan I (IOTA OC-092); HF; SSB FT8 FT4; QSL also OK via SP5APW
<b>May</b>						
2020 May01	2020 May22	Botswana	A25VR	VE7VR	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200130	By VE7VR; 40 20m; 10w (perhaps 100w); inverted Vs; holiday style operation during self-driving 4X4 camping safari
2020 May04	2020 May12	Maldives	8Q7KB	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20190912	By DL2SBY fm Meedhupparu; 80-6m; SSB CW + digital; inverted vee; QSL also OK via DL2SBY direct; logs will be uploaded to Club Log
2020 May04	2020 May15	St Barthelemy	FJ		<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200213	By F6CUK as FJ/F6CUK and F6EHJ as FJ/F6EHJ; @FJ5AB; all bands; SSB CW; side trip to Tintamarre I (IOTA NA-199)
2020 May09	2020 May15	Haiti	4V5H	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200121	By G4PVM MM0NDX MM0OKG; 80-15m; CW SSB FT8; also fm Haiti's coastal islands (IOTA NA-149)
2020 May20	2020 May27	St Vincent	J8	KD7WPJ	KD7WPJ 20200106	By KD7WPJ as J8/UR5BCP; 40-6m; mainly FT8 FT4, some SSB CW; 100w
2020 May25	2020 Jun07	Martinique	FM 	ON4RU Direct	ON4RU 20200304	By ON4RU as FM/OQ3R fm IOTA NA-107; 160-10m; CW; holiday style operation; QRV for WPX CW as TO3F

Thanks to NG3K for the DX information above. (www.ng3k.com)

### SUNDAY MORNING NET ROSTER

MARCH	APRIL	MAY
8 <sup>th</sup> ZL2IAN	5 <sup>th</sup> ZL2GX	3 <sup>rd</sup> ZL2IAN
15 <sup>th</sup> ZL2AUB	12 <sup>th</sup> ZL2LI	10 <sup>th</sup> ZL2BPX
22 <sup>nd</sup> ZL2BEQ	19 <sup>th</sup> ZL2TH	17 <sup>th</sup> ZL2AUB
29 <sup>th</sup> ZL2BJA	26 <sup>th</sup> ZL2BILL	24 <sup>th</sup> ZL2BEQ
		31 <sup>st</sup> ZL2BJA

If you are unable to take the net on your designated date please arrange with one of the other operators to fill in for you or to swap net dates.

### **IMPORTANT DATES AND OTHER INFO**

10<sup>th</sup> of March Committee Meeting  
21<sup>st</sup> of March AREC/SOTA/POTA  
25<sup>th</sup> of March Afternoon Social Meeting  
28<sup>th</sup> of March Club fund raising Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings  
1<sup>st</sup> of April Branch Meeting

#### BRANCH COMMITTEE EMAILS:

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