

# RADIO WAVES

## NEWLETTER of THE MANAWATU AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY BRANCH 20 NZART



### News from The Editors Desk ZL2SKY Mar/Apr 2020

Greetings one and all from my QTH to yours. I hope you are all doing well inside your bubble in these trying times. I, like a large part of the population would never have dreamed of the situation that the world is finding itself in at the moment. While the situation is causing unprecedented

happenings for many generations a lot of praise and support must go to those working in the essential services. It is these people who are giving their all to making the country as safe as can be and who are doing so by putting their own lives at risk. We here in Branch 20 have some of those people who are members of the club and they are going about their daily business looking after, and helping to keep the country running. I know that you all will agree with me in wishing them all the best and thanks for being there as you go about your day to day duties.

I had the need to travel last week from Woodville to Dannevirke and back again for the simple reason of getting the flu jab, doing a little supermarket shopping and to pick up a prescription that my Dr had faxed through to the chemists. Well what an eye opener that turned out to be. From the time I left home in Woodville until the time I arrived back home 2 hours and 50 minutes had passed. A normal trip would take between 17 and 20 minutes driving each way. To relieve the boredom I decided to count the number of vehicles I saw going in the opposite direction to me, on the way to Dannevirke I saw 20 cars and 16 trucks, on the return journey the count was 20 cars, 8 trucks, 1 ambulance and 1 motorbike. I have done this in the past before the outbreak of the pandemic we find ourselves in now with the current lock-down and I have counted on average over 120 vehicles total and on one occasion over 150. So I dear say that the lock-down is doing its job of keeping people off the roads, or at least it is in the Tararua District. Now of the 2 hour 50 minute trip, 5 minutes was taken up in waiting for the drive-through for my flu injection, 10 minutes was waiting in line to pick up my medications outside the chemist shop, 35 minutes was travelling time and the rest of it was taken up with waiting in line outside the supermarket, going through the supermarket, which was a 1 in 1 out allowance and getting through the checkout at the end of it which wasn't exactly quick as there were only 3 checkouts open. What made it even more ridiculous was even though they were running the 1 in 1 out policy, at any one time there must have been at least 50 customers inside the store. Put that together with

the staff that were constantly stocking shelves etc there must have been somewhere around 70+ people in the store. Not the best I thought considering the amount of people in each aisle it was impossible to maintain the mandatory 2M spacing. So what I guess I am trying to say here is that while things are not the best in our country at the moment, I think as a whole we are doing quite well with the number of people who have contracted the virus when all things are considered.

As some of you are aware there had been a working bee undertaken at the clubrooms before the lock-down came into effect. Many thanks to all those who have helped out with the clean up and painting of the clubrooms. Thanks to Roger ZL2KH who has supplied a couple of photos of the repainted clubrooms which looks outstanding. The colour tint used in the paint looks very nice and just takes the edge off the old plain white that was the previous colour.

Your Committee held a very successful video conference meeting courtesy of Max ZL2MAX's Zoom account. There were a couple of teething problems to start off with which were basic operator error but once everyone was up and running the meeting was very good and looks to be the way to go in the meantime while we are all in lock-down. The changing over of banks has stalled at the moment due to the virus lock-down but be assured that Ada ZL2ADA has everything under control. There will be more news on this in the future and once it is settled we will inform you all of this.

The replacement on air meeting on the 7.125 repeater for the 2pm Afternoon Group which would normally take place at the clubrooms on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month has seen a good number of operators coming up for a chat. Unfortunately the first on air meeting was interrupted quite a lot by one of the local idiots who thought they would transmit a voice synthesizing unit over the top of almost every over or at the start and end of an over. The following Wednesday it was decided to try again and it was very successful with yet again a good turnout for the on air meeting. It has been decided to continue with these on air Wednesday 2pm nets with a different net control station taking charge each week. The last Wednesday on air meeting saw Len ZL2LI take control of the net under the club call ZL2KO. During the net it was decided that as Roger ZL2KH was having so much fun extolling the use of the phonetic alphabet, and that he did such a great job of it, that his reward was to be the next net control for the next Wednesday on air gathering on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. We all look forward to hearing Roger host the net for the first time.

Ok I think that is about all from me for now. I just want to wish you all to take care of yourselves and lets hope that we will soon all be able to get together after the lock-down and virus has been dealt to. One suggestion which I thought is a great idea is for us to have a BBQ get together for our first meeting at the clubrooms after this is all over.

**73 until next time de Allan ZL2SKY**

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**NOTE.** Due to Warren ZL2JML/2FE's work commitments, this issues Presidents column has been taken from an email that went out from Warren not too long ago to some of you. It has been edited down a little bit and we look forward to seeing Warrens regular column in the not too distant future when things have settled down with his work commitments and the return to some sort of normality after the Covid-19 virus situation has made that all possible.



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

**Hi Folks**

Just a quick update on where we are at. Well just over a week of lock-down and it is pleasing to see how folk are adjusting to the new way of life and coming up with new ways of staying in touch. Lets look at some of the things that have been happening and developing..

We had our club meeting as a 7125 net last week. Unfortunately there was Cedric proving that he is a member of IOTA (Idiots on the air). There seems to be more than one of these characters but we are following some leads on that one and maybe setting up the odd trap or two to catch them out.

MOTA Net: Every Wednesday at 0200 UTC, 2PM NZDT on 7125 there is a net for folks to keep in touch more regularly. Drop in on the frequency and catch up with your colleagues.

We are looking at other modes of communication, one is using digital radio and "Peanut" to access XLX 750D reflector. This is a multi protocol reflector so you can access it from DStar, Fusion or DMR and of course "Peanut". . If you have not yet managed to install peanut on your PC, tablet or phone contact Pete ZL2AUB or Giovanni ZL2GX who will be happy to help you to get it up and running.

We are running our committee meeting on Zoom this week, (Zoom is sort of like Skype but seems much better for larger groups and has some pretty cool features). If this is successful we will try to see what other meetings we can run - maybe even a club meeting as a combined Zoom / Radio meeting. I encourage all of you to have a play with the software. It can be downloaded from <https://zoom.us/download> This is quite easy to install and operate - even Pete who struggles to use the "phone app" on a cell phone figured it out! Matt ZL2EW, Graeme ZL2GZ and Max ZL2MAX have kindly offered to assist anyone who is struggling to get it going. They will be happy to set up a meeting on line and walk you through it. It could be that in the future we use Zoom in our Branch meetings for folk who can't make it to the meeting or even for the beginners classes.

As you may well know - Matt ZL2EW was working on the Bunnings Community Sausage Sizzle and HamCram outreach until Covid-19 became an issue, - to our

surprise Bunnings have offered the club a \$500 gift voucher in lieu of the cancellation. As you will appreciate they did not need to do this so lets make sure we support Bunnings for their very generous and community focussed offer. Also - big thanks to Matt for organising this.

Also around the club rooms has seen a lot of activity. John Charlton ZL1AVP has organised a working bee around the grounds, it was looking great last time I saw it - we will try to make this a regular event so our club rooms are always looking good and professional. Well done John and the folks who turned up!

Then there is Bill ZL2BILL and Roger ZL2KH- they have been water blasting, painting, replacing putty in windows - basically giving the outside a good redecoration! I have not seen it (and not likely to till the lock-down is over) but I hear that it looks great. We will need to get a new sign to match the club rooms after this! I Think we should celebrate the hard work that these folks have done with a BBQ at the club rooms when we are all allowed out again!

As most of you all know - the Covid-19 event has been designated a "special event" so we can use the ZM prefix. I have had a few 40m contacts and I know Pete has used it on FT8 - why not have a go!

That's about it for now - take care of each other - lookout for those you have not heard from for a while and come onto those Branch Nets.

**Kia kaha**

**Kind Regards**  
**Warren Crawley**

**ZL2FE/ZL2JML**

**President Branch 20**

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## **BRANCH 20 ACTIVITIES**

As can be seen by the two images below the clubrooms are looking very nice with the new paint work that has recently been carried out on it. Many thanks to Roger ZL2KH for the photos that he has sent me for you all to see the recent upgrade of the outside of the building. Well done to all involved.

Many thanks to Ada ZL2ADA & Warren ZL2JML/2FE for the photos that they have provided which were taken at the Combined Branches Waitangi Day BBQ which was held at the Ashhurst Domain.

Other images featured are some that were taken at the Branch 20 2KO Field Day station set up at the Kopane School and another couple taken at the antenna setup day for Lawry ZL2HQ at his new QTH at Waitarere Beach.





**ABOVE:** A job well done, the outside of the clubrooms are looking very nice.



**Above & Below:** The Combined Branch's Waitangi Day BBQ at Ashhurst.







**Below: The ZL2KO Field Day Station set up**



**Above Left to right: Owen ZL2OW, Graeme ZL2GZ & Giovanni ZL2GX**



## ZL2HQ's Setup Day Continued



**Above Left:** The 2M antenna which has gotten Lawry back on the air. **Centre:** Warren ZL2JML/FE at the HF antenna support. **Top Right:** Len ZL2LI tests out the 2M radio on air with Barrie ZL2BJA at the receiving end. **Bottom Right:** Taking a well earned rest after getting everything installed for Lawry and being entertained by one of his Daughters dog before finishing up the day with a well earned lunch.

## Upcoming DX of Interest

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by	Info
<b>2020</b>						
<b>April</b>						
2020 Apr14	2020 May15	Ghana	9G5GS <a href="#">[spots]</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200331	By IZ4YGS fm Sanzule; 160-10m; mainly SSB FT8; 1kw; QSL OK via IZ4YGS direct and eQSL
2020 Apr14	2020 Apr30	Cambodia	XU7AMG <b>NEW</b> <a href="#">[spots]</a>	BG9XD	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200415	By BG9XD; 80 40 20 15 10m; SSB RTTY; to continue until Jun 14
<b>May</b>						
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 May07	2020 May11	Guernsey	GU75LIB	GU8ITE	GU0SUP 20200403	By GU0SUP + others fm St Peter Port; HF, perhaps 2m 70cm; all modes; 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Guernsey; QSL OK via Buro or direct
<b>CQ WPX Contest, CW</b> (May 30-31, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity too.						
<b>June</b>						
2020 Jun10	2020 Jun17	Cayman Is	ZF2FD	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20191211	By KK5XX fm Grand Cayman I (NA-016); 80 40 20m; SSB; QSL also OK via KK5XX and eQSL
2020 Jun11	2020 Jul02	St Kitts & Nevis	<a href="#">V47JA</a>	LoTW	W5JON 20191120	By W5JON fm Calypso Bay; 160-6m, incl 60m; SSB FT8; yagi, verticals; QSL also OK via W5JON direct
2020 Jun30	2020 Jul14	St Pierre & Miquelon	<a href="#">FP</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20191126	By KV1J as FP/KV1J fm Miquelon I (IOTA NA-032, DIFO FP-002, WLOTA 1417); 160-6m; mainly SSB RTTY FT8/4, some CW; QRV for IARU Contest; see Web for QSL details

Thanks to NG3K for the DX information above. ([www.ng3k.com](http://www.ng3k.com))

### **SUNDAY MORNING NET ROSTER**

<b>APRIL</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUNE</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> ZL2BILL	3 <sup>rd</sup> ZL2IAN	7 <sup>th</sup> ZL2JML
	10 <sup>th</sup> ZL2BPX	14 <sup>th</sup> ZL2GX
	17 <sup>th</sup> ZL2AUB	21 <sup>st</sup> ZL2LI
	24 <sup>th</sup> ZL2BEQ	28 <sup>th</sup> ZL2TH
	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.



## **WANTED TO BUY**

1. RCA Senior VoltOhmyst model WV-98c.
2. Medium size antenna rotator and controller like the Yaesu G-2800 or G-450A, or similar, the antenna controller must have the ability to be computer controlled via after market interfaces.

Please send details of equipment condition and price to: [ZL2BJO@gmail.com](mailto:ZL2BJO@gmail.com) or to Call Book address.

Thanks.

73 de Selwyn

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### **BRANCH COMMITTEE EMAILS:**

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