



NZART HQ INFOLINE ISSUE # 468
Dedicated to Amateur Radio in New Zealand since 1926

HQ update... on my progress – unfortunately I am now awaiting ACC approval for a knee replacement and ligament repair.

To ensure continuity of service to members, NZART Council have approved me working from home until this is all resolved.

I do apologise to anyone who may wish to visit headquarters, but for now ask for your patience during this time. Please keep an eye on the website for regular updates as to my progress.

The work phone has been diverted to a cell phone, so again, as little disruption to daily life as possible.

The only thing I do ask, if you are wanting to send items via courier to HQ, please contact me for an alternative delivery address so I can be sure I receive your item.

NZART Awards

It's time to be thinking about award nominations presented at the AGM, specifically we need

Life Membership, Amateur of the Year and Young Amateur of the Year.

Nomination need to be received at HQ either via email or post, by the 30 April at the latest.

Break In – Ham Ad

Wanted to Buy: Transceiver - 100W, HF to 6 metres, in good condition and using an external power supply. Distributed between say 2000 and 2010.

Bob ZL1NX 09-837-8044.

CW Lessons...

...for beginners will start in March the 13th 2023.

Send from South Auckland, the signals can be heard on the National System (when available), on 80m on 3755 and now via ZOOM.

For those wishing to listen via ZOOM, please contact Peter Henderson ZL1PX at... pjh@teachit.com for the information required to access the ZOOM transmissions.

The CW will start by learning the letters of the alphabet and some punctuation then we will move onto text.. We start with the Character speed of 19 WPM but by using Farnsworth Spacing, the text speed will start at 6 Words Per Minute.

In this way, you will continue to hear the characters at the same speed but with large spacings between each character. As time moves on, we will increase the text speed WPM by reducing the spacing until you reach around 13 - 14 WPM in December.

The CW will be sent on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week starting at 7.15pm on Mondays, and at 7.30pm the other days.

The sessions last around 35 - 45 minutes or so. Text is available to all for these lessons just ask. At the start of each session, we ask for check-ins and at the end of the session, if you wish, you can tell us how you did... good, bad or somewhere in the middle. No one will be asked to read back what they received or put under any pressure at all, that's not our aim.

So far, I have 3 operators sending the CW, Rob Stokes ZL1RJS, Peter Henderson ZL1PX and myself David Karrasch ZL1DK.

The prepared text is available to anyone by asking for it... zl1dk@nzart.org.nz. We use Gary Bolds, ZL1AN(SK), Teach software which has been modified by Andrew, ZL1AF.

If you or a group of members would like to assist in sending one night a week, please contact me and I will send you everything needed to get you running including the text to be sent.

Thank you, David Karrasch ZL1DK.

Reports from those affected during Cyclone Gabriel:

From ZL2JED Robert Nielsen (Wairoa) - When the power, phones and water ceased we were in an information vacuum.

Fortunately, I have solar panels and charged batteries and was able to operate my 2m rig. Between my QYT, handheld Baofengs and the BaoJie radio in my truck, I was able to earwig on the 485.200 frequency and keep up to date with goings on in the Wairoa area as well as communicate via the 690 repeater on Whakapunake and listen to traffic on the 670 repeater in HB.

I've often said when power and cell phone networks fail 12v DC wins every time and this proved to be the case in spades. A well deserved shout out to ZL2RI (Steve in Gisborne) for his good works. Also ZL2KCW (Kerry on the Tiniroto Road), ZL2HC (Hamish) and ZL2IMM (Ian) also both in Gisborne).

"Cyclone Gabrielle hit overnight on Monday night, the 13th of February. By 2am on Tuesday morning the internet and telephone had stopped working and at 8am the power went off. Power was restored later on Tuesday evening but the internet and cell phone coverage did not return until late in the weekend.

On Wednesday evening I spoke with Mike ZL2AUA in Kerikeri and others on their weekly net on 80m to let them know that, from what I knew at the time, things in Gisborne City were on the whole OK but that water was at critical supply levels due to the main pipeline being seriously damaged in several places.

In anticipation of the cyclone Mike ZL2CC in Te Karaka and others in Gisborne City had organised a net with Barrie ZL2BJA and Sam ZL2WE in Palmerston North, to operate at set times on 40m during the day and 80m at night.

The use of HF enabled reliable long-distance communications out of the area without having to relay via VHF.

I understand from talking to a Gisborne District Council engineer, that Civil Defence had its own communications link with Te Karaka, but that this was used for coordination purposes, with the amateur HF link mainly serving a role for welfare and personal messages to the outside world.

This HF link between Palmerston North and Gisborne was used to pass messages to and from people outside the Gisborne area anxious to know about family and friends in the affected areas.

I understand there were at least twenty amateurs involved in this net, passing these welfare check messages. I myself took advantage of the net to ask Sam ZL2WE to send an e-mail to my daughter in Melbourne. I received a reply back later that day. A truly excellent system.

Although the National System was also used to communicate outside the Gisborne area, it had some technical issues at this end (some sort of feedback noise, possibly related to the wet weather), so was somewhat hampered in its operation.

However Steve ZL2RI, operating from the EIT campus in Gisborne, managed to work around this problem by relaying National System messages via 40m. Again, this shows how technically adept amateurs are at working around problems.

The lesson I have taken from all of this is that it demonstrates that radio amateurs are especially good at providing ad hoc communications when required, especially over HF."

73

Con, ZL2AFP

Footnote from the editor: Thank you all for your reports, hopefully we can collate them all to include in Break In, in the next issue.

You have done amateurs around New Zealand, proud, so thank you for your efforts.

Contests

Well done to all who took part in last weekend's Jock White Memorial Field Day. Please get those logs processed and sent to Stuart asap. Details are on the NZART Contests website.

Next NZART Contests are the Autumn Sprints each Tuesday night in April for 1 hour on 80m. These are great fun and good for keeping your hand in.

11/12 March is the 86th running of the RSGB Commonwealth Contest (aka BERU). A CW contest with a nice relaxed feel. Why not give it a try? <https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2023/rcwc.shtml>

73 and good luck in the contest!

Geoff ZL3GA

Commonwealth (BERU) Contest 11-12 March - CW only. Why not get a team of 5 together? <https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2023/rcwc.shtml>

73 and good luck in the contest
Geoff ZL3GA

Around the Branches:

Our annual Branch 35 Picnic is to be held on Sunday 26th March. It will be held at Naish Park in Charlotte Street, Balclutha, starting from 10:30am.

Please provide your own food, drink, hat, and seat. A BBQ will be provided. Family and friend's welcome.

Contact on the day will be on Kuriwao 675.

As it is also the 90th Birthday of our branch, celebrations will be included.

73

Cliff Gray ZL4AS
Secretary

027 414 0055

Next Issue of HQ InfoLine

The next InfoLine is due out Sunday the 19th March 2023. If you would like to share any events or report on any upcoming activities, please send these through to <nzart@nzart.org.nz>

The Next Official Broadcast will be held Sunday 26th March 2023.

Nga mihi nui. (Kind regards)
Debby

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