



BRANCH 27 NEWSLETTER Nov-Dec 2024

Hi Everyone, Can't believe its almost the end of the year already.

This newsletter will be for two months as December is a very busy month for us with family coming up from South Island to stay.

Congratulations to Dave ZL2TLF for a fantastic front page article in our local News Paper on Amateur radio operators assistance in a Emergency . The South Taranaki Branch have installed a 20 metre tower with an aerial system to be used by 705 on a farm at Meremere inland from Hawera.

Radio wise we've been chasing noises and many of you are experiencing similar problems. We have a S8 noise level and just recently experienced a loud surging sound over and above this. After turning off our main power source we went through everything in the house, only to find that it was situated in a garden shed on our neighbours property where he was charging an appliance. So after two days it stopped and at the moment we have no extra noise. We discussed this on our Branch net and one of our members Brett ZL2VZ suggested a website to track down individual noises:

www.sigidwiki.com

Our next Branch meeting will be held on the 19th November with a talk from Daniel ZL2DRV about how he got into Amateur radio 7.30pm TEMO . We will be having a committee meeting at 6.30pm and you are welcome to join us before the Branch meet

Our AGM will be held at TEMO 7.30pm on the 17th December Please bring along a project for Show & Tell

BE KIND TO
EVERYONE YOU MEET.



THEY MAY BE
STUDYING TO BECOME
A HAM.

President's Report Terry ZL2TNB

Hi everybody.

It's been a quiet month of activity club wise last month, with five Tuesdays it caught out a few members with it being so early.

Daniel's presentation will be this month being the 19th November so put it in your calendar. A committee meeting will be an hour earlier starting at 6:30, you are welcome to sit in if you wish to.

The weather has not been good enough to change the coax on 8475 yet. To do that is still in the things to do list.

Steven has now got his DMR repeater operational and many members with DMR radios can access it but unless I put my radio on an external antenna my 5 watt signal on a rubber ducky cannot make the grade. Thanks the Steven and others involved for the repeater.

Thats about it for Octobers news so look at this newsletter for coming events.

Terry ZL2TNB

CHRISTMAS MEAL Branch 87

Hi folks, Just confirming/advising that I have made a booking for a SHARED Christmas dinner on the 7th December 12.00pm at Malones Stratford

Depending on numbers they may have a restricted menu but I think they did that last year!

"The Bridge" is not open weekends

Please RSVP by Thursday 5th December 6pm to John 0272431726 zljcm@muldrock.com



Taranaki Award

Results top 3 places both local & DX

PLACE Local	Winner	Place DX	Winner
1st	ZL2TLF - Dave	1st	ZL2LDX - Don
2nd	ZL2WJM - Michael	2nd equal	ZL1GGL - Grant
3rd equal	ZL2TE - Graeme	2nd equal	ZL2UK - Christine
3rd equal	ZL2UJT - Ngaire	3rd	ZL1LL - Lynette

Taranaki Garden Festival catch up

In November Rosemary ZL1RO from Auckland came via Coach to the Taranaki garden Festival and we arranged for Val ZL2FO & her OM Graham ZL2AHR to drive up from Wanganui for a catch up for lunch at our QTH.

It was such a great chance for us girls to get together face to face as we three have been regulars on the YL Thursday evening nets for many years.

It was also a great opportunity for the two OMs both Graeme & Graham to chat radio gear in the shed.

These face to face contacts are so special and it was so appreciated that Graham and Val drove all the way from Wanganui for the event.

Rosemary ZL1RO bought an old letter with her that she has kept for many years when she was a listener (before she got her licence) on a net which 4 Hams ran in the 1960's and one was our Dan Wilkinson ZL2AB who we got our current club call sign from.

Ngaire ZL2UJT



From left Val ZL2FO Wanganui, Rosemary ZL1RO Auckland, & Ngaire ZL2UJT NP

Graeme ZL2TE



I guess ham radio and electronics really started for me in about 1954. Prior to that life began in the usual way I was born, raised, went to school and learned to understand some of the universe around me. In 1954 the difference was that I wound up in the same class at school as Sid Ireson and we both discovered we had an interest in common with electronics gadgets mechanical things - and spearfishing which my parents were dead set against me doing as they had visions of me being called up by sharks more other equal disasters. This state of affairs was somewhat mitigated when I started turning up with crayfish, but I digress. Sid and I made a buzzer and learnt Morse code. We made our keys from a hacksaw blade and the buzzers from rolling metal cut from a tin can to form an armature and winding the coil on a bolt which was left overnight in the fire to magnetically soften it. I went to the P&T as it was and those days and scrounged batteries from old telephone's to power our buzzers. This setup played a pivotal role in our "Fort" which we had constructed in the bush at Churchill Heights and we sent messages on the whereabouts of our friends during our mock battles. Over the next couple of years we got more sophisticated and built radio receivers namely Crystal sets and hikers one's and eventually a four valve portable radio with battery tubes. Naturally we were drawn towards transmitting and receiving and built a small transmitter that ran just under the bottom of the broadcast band which we could operate from Churchill Heights in New Plymouth down to Sid's house in Vivian Street. We found out about ham radio and went along to the local Amateur Radio club meetings which were held at Central School where Dan Wilkinson ZL2AB was the president and I think John Pinhey ZL2LE the secretary. Sid and I studied together for our amateur radio exams and Sid who was by then a trainee radio inspector passed and was awarded the call sign ZL2TE. Six months later I gained the call ZL2AVP.

The exam was very different in those days and consisted of 3 sections, the first being a written paper on the regulations, the second a written 3 hour paper on radio theory and the third a 15 wpm morse test. My first qso was with Pat ZL2PJ and I was using a type 38 set which I



had rigged up to operate mobile on my motorbike. The aerial was an 8 foot whip plugged into the 38 set and the power supply was a 6 volt vibrator with it running off the motorbike battery. I seemed to attract a little bit of attention from the local Traffic cops and until they got to know me, stopped me several times and asked what the hell was I doing with that stick up in the air on the back of my bike. As they were equipped with radio they sort of understood when I explained that it was ham radio although I don't think that they were particularly pleased about it. I was operating it with a throat mic and a pair of ZC1 headphones as didn't need a crash helmet in those days.



In between playing with buzzers and getting my licence I was employed by the Post Office as a mechanic in the telephone exchange and shortly was joined by Ted Barnes ZL2TAX later becoming ZL2IP along with Pat Lynch ZL2TAH. These guys were also a big influence on my ham radio life and there were a number of shenanigans eventually attracting the attention of the RI which resulted in them promptly getting a licence.

My next move up the chain of ham radio was the purchase of a war surplus 19 set while I was at a training course in Petone. Sine Wave George was the purveyor of these devices and I got mine for the

Yeah I know! I had hair and less diameter

princely sum of five pounds. I converted it by removing the VHF section and replacing it with a power supply so the unit was self-contained and added some microphone gain. A short time later I built a mobile rig with a shortwave converter on the front of the car's broadcast radio and the transmitter using a pair of 5763 valves for the final with a home made vibrator power supply to run from the 6 volt system in my old Ford Prefect.

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE day mth year	TIME UTC	FREQ or BAND	SIGNALS RS(T)	MODE 2X
PSE QSL	TNX QSL	73, de Graeme			

and gained the call sign ZL2APV. It was very difficult operating CW with that call, having held ZL2AVP initially. I confused a lot of people about who I really was when I was operating, including me I can tell you. I've always been a keen home Brewer and over the recent years I've built my complete station as a software defined radio currently using a trap dipole antenna and have a big interest in magnetic loops. Using the SDR gear I managed to work 238 countries

About this time I got transferred while working for the Post Office to Te Kuiti and I had to change my call to ZL1BGO. I moved to Tauranga from there and eventually returned to New Plymouth where I got the call said ZL2SW. While in New Plymouth I built a transistor transceiver and later after being frustrated with the five watts output built myself a 250 watt linear amplifier with 5B/254M valves in the final. I moved back to Tauranga and took the call sign ZL1NC from there went to Teachers College and finally back to New Plymouth where I worked at Spotswood College on CW.

Recently Sid died and as a tribute I took up his call in memory of our days as lads starting out in Ham Radio and I've been operating with that call sign over the last 12 months. Ham radio's been an integral part of my life I've enjoyed the fellowship with other hams, I've enjoyed the technical challenges of working on my equipment, I've enjoyed sharing the hobby with my XYL Ngaire ZL2UJT and I've enjoyed my club and NZART fellowship. I wish all my fellow hams as much pleasure from the hobby as I have had.



73 Graeme ZL2AVP/ZL1BGO/ZL2SW/ZL1NC/ZL2APV/ZL2TE

"The Night Before Christmas", Ham Radio-style

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.
The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.
The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.
The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.
He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,
When he ended transmission with the words,
"Old St. Nick".
I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!
We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,
Then he came back and said,
"I've emergency traffic!"
His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.
I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,

Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.
As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:
"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode!
Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!
You're flying too low! you're flying too fast!
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"
So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop!
Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,
"Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"
As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,
Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--
His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,
"Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.
The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,
And he handed me a card that read,
"QSL Via Bureau".
His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;
I felt like a novice taking his test.
His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,
This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.
I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,
I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.
Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.
He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,
And placed in it a large present for me.
When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,
Then out the back door to his team he did plow.
But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,
"Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!" (From Internet)



Ngairé ZL2UJT