



THE OTAGO BRANCH OF THE NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF RADIO TRANSMITTERS INC.

SUMMER EDITION - 2010

Visitors Always Welcome - Club Nights Wednesdays 7.30pm
109 Macandrew Road, South Dunedin / PO Box 5485 Dunedin

FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to the summer edition of the newsletter. We are looking for a new editor as I have stepped down from the role after becoming branch President.
If someone would like to have a go at the position please contact me.

73 de Alan ZL4FM

BRANCH 30 - HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS:

H.G Hedge (ZL4FD), P.W Johnson (ZL4LV), A.J.H Gilchrist (ZL4PZ), D.W Carr,
A. Watson (ZL4WAH), D.K Watson (ZL4GR), D.J Stevenson (ZL4SB)

BRANCH 30 – COMMITTEE:

- (President) Alan Wilden (ZL4FM) 453-4420 / 021-145-2682 / alan@navcom.co.nz
- (Vice President) Lindsey Ross (ZL4KS) 487-8946
- (Secretary) Still to be filled
- (Treasure) Mike Beattie (ZL4DM) 476-6120
- (Immediate Past President) Arthur Curline (ZL4TIK) 488-4032 / 027-488-2802
- Brady (ZL4PDX)
- Maurice Howell (ZL4MH) effsec@paradise.net.nz
- Ross Chapman (ZL4RC) 487-6825 / 027-481-6260 / z4rc@slingshot.co.nz
- Bob Smith (ZL4OC) 477-0969 / bob_smith@clear.net.nz
- Dave Howell (ZL4TAQ)

BRANCH 30 - OFFICERS OF THE CLUB:

• AREC Section Leader	Lindsey Ross	ZL4KS	487-8946
• Contact Officer	Ross Chapman	ZL4RC	487-6825
• Awards Manager	Dave Howell	ZL4TAQ	
• Contest Manager	Brady Love	ZL4PDX	
• EMC Officer	Peter Johnson	ZL4LV	489-5884
• Club Librarian	Anne Watson	ZL4WAH	467-5620
• Branch Newsletter	still not filled		
• QSL Manager (ZL4)	Dave Adams	ZL4OZ	453-3274
• Repeater Trustees	Martin Balch	ZL4JH	454-3262
	Don Watson	ZL4GR	467-5620
• ZL4AA Webmaster	Paul Hayton	ZL4PH	456-4246
• Packet Sysop	Mike Beattie	ZL4DM	476-6120

FAST FACTS:

- Annual Subscription: Full \$25.00 / Family \$30.00 / Junior-Associate \$11.00
- Meetings each Wednesday evening at 7.30pm (except holiday period)
- Postal Address: **ZL4AA, Otago Branch 30, New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters, P O Box 5485, Moray Place, Dunedin.**
- Branch 30 - Website <http://www.zl4aa.org.nz>
- Branch 30 - Packet BBS / DUD Digipeater (144.650 MHz)
- Branch 30 - 2 Meter Club Net 7.30pm every Sunday (146.900 MHz) repeater
- Branch 30 - 80 Meter Club Net around 8pm every Sunday (3.613MHz)
- National Repeater System Local Node (439.925 MHz)
- Mosgiel Link to 146.900 (438.200 MHz simplex)
- Queenstown Link to 146.850 (438.300 MHz simplex)
- Dunedin 915 Repeater (439.150 MHz) Currently at ZL4RC's Place
- Dunedin 665 Repeater (146.650 MHz)

SUNDAY NIGHT (690) NET CONTROLLERS – WHO'S ON & WHEN?

JANURARY		FEBURAY		MARCH	
3	No net	7	ZL4SB	7	ZL4LDS
10	ZL4TIK	14	ZL4WAH	14	ZL4US
17	ZL4RC	21	ZL4TIK	21	ZL4SB
24	ZL4LDS	28	ZL4RC	28	ZL4WAH
31	ZL4US				

The Branch 30 weekly net runs most Sunday evenings of the year from 7.30pm for approximately 30 minutes. Logins are a mixture of local and out of town operators who want to take part. Balclutha 675 is being linked to 690 using 2 IRLP nodes. The NZART monthly official I broadcast, from ZL6A, is linked in to the 690 repeater from 2000 hrs at the end of weekly net.

If you are scheduled as a net controller and are unable to host the net on your allocated night please arrange cover prior to your allotted net.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES – SUMMER 2010:

With the end of year rush, I was unable to put together an official programme for the first quarter. Please bring along a project that you are working on or you may want to volunteer to give us a talk.

January 6th - No meeting
January 13th - Activity Night and Committee meeting
January 20th - Activity Night
January 27th - Activity Night
February 3rd - Activity Night
February 10th - Activity Night and Committee Meeting
February 17th - Activity Night
February 24th - Activity Night
March 3rd - Activity Night
March 10th - Activity Night and Committee Meeting
March 17 - Activity Night
March 31st - Activity Night

PRESIDENTS REPORT;

AGM; 2009;

The last three years as president of branch 30 has been a highlight for me since I've been in the club.

Running Committee meetings and conference meeting was challenging, It was pleasing that the conference was so successful. So I would like to thank everyone involved who worked endlessly on conference.

Over the years it's been good to see the amount of people attending club nights and events as it's difficult to get a variety of topics to keep everyone interested.

It's been very satisfying to watch people study, sit and pass their exams and go on the air for their very first time.

I would like to thank the committee and officers for all the effort they have put in this year.

It's also good to see the amount of interest of members wanting to join committee.

There is still a lot of work to do on the club rooms, repeater sites and the container, so i will look forward to seeing everyone come along and join in with me in the working bees in the new year.

I would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year. 73 z14tik.

Otago Branch NZART Annual AREC Report 2009

As another year draws to a close we can reflect on another busy year for our AREC section with 20 meetings, 5 training events, 7 searches, 3 car rallies and 2 rural fires attended during the year.

Terry ZL4TAE organised a trip to Helicopters Otago where we undertook helicopter safety training and a look through the many helicopters in the hanger.

This was followed up with an interactive talk on the level of preparedness required when using the helicopter to install portable repeaters at remote sites

Early in the year our equipment was given a major boost with the purchase of 3 Icom commercial mobile radios, 2 VHF and 1 UHF, along with power supply and accessories. Also a portable mast with VHF aerial and a new battery and solar panel for 665/6675 STSP repeater.

The radios have been used at base during car rallies and searches and are ready to be put to many other uses from mobile radios to being configured as a cross band or a VHF repeater.

During the year AREC was able to offer to members a subsidised mag mount base and dual band aerial.

Mag mounts are a really handy piece of equipment to have in your kit and I was pleased when 17 club members took up the offer.

This would not have been possible without the help of Bede ZL4KX and Peter ZL4LV with the development and manufacture of the dual band aeriels and Alan ZL4FM at Navcom Electronics for putting a good deal together for the mag mount bases.

There has been a major funding development with our parent body forming the "NZART AREC Emergency Funds Trust".

As a result a service level agreement with NZSAR has been reached, in respect of being the national preferred provider of communications to Search and Rescue in New Zealand and AREC will annually receive funding for training and supply of type approved equipment to sections.

As part of this I am hoping to receive a new Icom HF radio shortly.

The AREC online activity reporting system now requires a lot more information for SAR activities including information's such as a grid reference of the search area and the Police event number.

Reporting and keeping people informed seems to be taking up more and more of my time.

I am pleased to report that depth and experience within the AREC first response group continues to move ahead with a good size team available each time the pager goes off or a phone call for our assistance is received.

Our extended members have also demonstrated their skills during car rallies this year. Welcome to Lindsay ZL4LDS who is the newest driver of the Dunedin City Civil Defence Emergency Communications Unit.

Looking forward to the next year there are plenty of challenges ahead already.

I would like to see AREC join the contesting group in the Portable Communications Unit, located at Peter ZL4LV's QTH.

Saddle Hill is a useful location for AREC activities and we are over due to have some equipment set-up for use during car rallies and emergencies.

I have been advised that the Rally of Otago will take place on the weekend of April 10/11 the weekend after Easter.

There will be less forestry and more public roads and plenty of new communications challenges.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support.

Lindsey Ross, ZK4EA
Otago Branch NZART
AREC Section Leader

Treasurer's Report to AGM 2nd December 2009

The accounts that I am presenting tonight were prepared by myself with a lot of assistance from Debbie Laney a Science & Accounting graduate. The accounts were then reviewed by Clare Gardener, Lecturer in Accounting at Otago University. I would like to express my thanks to them both for supporting me and our Club.

In line with the view expressed by the reviewer last year it has been our aim in preparing the accounts that they provide you, the members, with a more detailed insight into your clubs finances for the year.

Income:

At the risk of stating the obvious income from interest is down on that we have enjoyed over recent years! The flat is providing reliable income and the tenant we have is very reliable. Income from the Otago Car Rally is higher and the addition of the Silverfern and Lawrence Rallies have contributed to the significant increase of income.

Expenditure:

The only significant change was the increase of insurance premium caused by a revaluation of the buildings. This was a requirement of insurers. You will note the report shows more detail in the sub sections as recommended by the Reviewer last year.

Sales and Auctions;

Over recent years the quantity of donated "junk" in the garage has increased to the point where it was decided to have a cleanout auction. While the funds raised were minimal it did provide space for the continuing influx of "useful junk". Thank you Braidy for your assistance with cash handling etc on my behalf for the auction evening Dave Howell ZL4TAQ has re-commenced the sales on Trademe that Lindsey ZL4Ks started successfully some time ago. Thank you for this Dave and also Peter ZL4LV for your able assistance to Dave with the sorting and valuing.

Several estates have been generous to the club and in turn have been assisted by the club members to sort out the deceased Hams "valued" collections with the family members.

Property Maintenance;

The Installation of the heat-pump in the flat has been completed to everyone's satisfaction. Significant garden/tree work was completed last spring. The grounds are now more manageable and safer for the tenant. The committee has committed to repairing rotten wood in the window frames and a program of repainting.

Portable Communications Unit:

Over recent years contesting was one of the activities utilising the PCU. Although significant funds have been invested in the development of the PCU it has failed to stimulate as much new interest as expected. This is an asset that younger members should be encouraged to use and gain operating skills.

AREC Equipment:

Our section leader Lindsey ZL4KS has been proactive this year in renewing and improving the Clubs equipment for AREC and also by assisting active members obtain reliable portable antennas. This expenditure was offset by the surplus from the 2008 National Conference and Lindsey's own fundraising by running the Trademe sales in 2008

Kordia proposed charges Mt Cargill:

Kordia (the owners of Mt Cargill site) have over recent years proposed that we would be required to pay rent for our use of their sites. This has the potential to impact significantly financially on us. The proposed account which had limited distribution proved to have large discrepancies and errors. Although the issue has gone quiet again after these errors were pointed out we still may have to face the issue that we may not be able sustain our present level of operations at Mt Cargill.

Charity/Tax status:

This year we were formally advised that our application was successful and we had obtained registration with the Charities Commission. As a result our Income Tax payment was refunded and we were advised that we have "Donee" status with the IRD.

We applied for exemption from paying with-holding tax and this was approved - effective August 2009. Westpac and SBS have been advised and have actioned this.

Being a Registered charity does not impact on us being an Incorporated Society

Donee status enables us to issue donation receipts for tax purposes. To date the only such receipt issued has been to Anne for her cash donation of your payments to her for her baked suppers each meeting. Thank you Anne, for your generosity.

Treasurer for upcoming year:

As I indicated a year ago at the last AGM I will not be available to be the Treasurer on the new committee. I am prepared to be a committee member without portfolio.

To conclude I would like to thank the committee and club members for all their support and confidence they have shown to me as your treasurer. I have found the role to be challenging and satisfying over recent years. Now that I am retired I find that my need to be free of regular commitments is much more important to me.

I wish next year's treasurer well and assure him that he will have my support. I would like to highlight the importance of meeting the INC Societies and the Charities Commission requirements each year.

Motions:

1/ I move that this Treasurer's Report and the accounts submitted with it be accepted and approved by the meeting.

2/ I move that this meeting approve the immediate payment of honorarium to Deb Laney for her guidance and help to me in creating these Annual accounts.

3/ I move that this meeting approve the payment for a bunch of flowers to Clare Gardener for her review and report of our annual accts.

Bob Smith Treasurer

30 November 2009

Contest group report for 2009

The first results that came in for the year were from the 2008 SARTG WW RTTY contest, in which we were placed 9th in the world, in the Multi op Single transmitter class. Not a bad result for our first attempt at a WW RTTY contest. Ops. Were ZL4OL, ZL4JB, and ZL4NR.

Results of the February VHF DX Weekend show David, ZL4DK as a clear winner on 6mtrs. 2mtrs. & 70cm. With a total score of 841, when the 2nd place score was 149, & the 3rd place was 2!! Well-done David!

We didn't take part in this years Field day contest, as there was not enough interest from the group members.

We operated in the CQ WW RTTY contest in February as ZL4A, worked 390 stations with a claimed score of 447580. Ops were ZL1CT, ZL4QD, and ZL4NR.

Also worked the ARRL DX CW contest as ZM4A in Feb. with a claimed score of 21903. Ops were ZL4OL, ZL4NR. Official result is: score 19599, which was good enough for 1st ZL in Multi-one section.

The CQ WW WPX SSB contest as ZM4A returned 1224 QSO's & a claimed score of 2223570. Ops. Were ZL1CT, ZL4OL, ZL4FM, ZL4JAD, and ZL4NR.

The VK/Tasman 80m SSB contest saw a final score of 2668, with the last hour from 1am – 2am producing the highest scoring hour.

The CQ WW WPX CW contest saw only 59 contacts, due to worsening weather conditions [namely snow]. Operators: ZL4OL, & ZL4NR

The VK/Tasman 160m contest gave us a score of 1405 from 110 contacts, with the 3rd hour producing the highest score of 426. We only operated for 5 of the 6 hours, due to the band conditions getting worse & worse as the evening progressed. Ops were ZL4RC, ZL4PDX, and ZL4NR.

Ross, ZL4RC & ZL4NR operated from ZL4NR'S QTH in the VK/Tasman CW/Digital contest on 80mtrs. We only worked 17 stations but had a bit of fun doing it. We operated both CW, & RTTY. The score was 172, & we only operated for 2 of the 5 hours of the contest.

ZL4RC & ZL4NR also operated in the VK/ZL RTTY sprint organized by ZL2SKY. We operated in the 80 & 40m sections, & made 8th place, with a very laid back approach to the contest.

In the 2008 Oceania CW contest we haven't got the final score yet, but we gave the ZM2M team a very good run for their money, & almost piped them.

Chris ZL1CT operated the ZM4A call in the ARRL SSB test in March, & managed 643 contacts.

As an experiment, we operated the CQ WW SSB contest in October, using ZM4A from Rex's ZL4IV QTH. Rex had offered the use of his excellent station, & I arranged for ZL4OL, ZL4PDX, ZL4RC, ZL4DM, ZL4IV, and ZL4NR, to operate for as much of the 48hrs. as we could manage. We ended with a modest final claimed score of 374,806. Not a brilliant result, but the experiment was enjoyed by all who took part.

About August sometime, I decided to give up the position of Contest manager, & mentioned this at the committee meeting that month. Various factors contributed to my decision, but the main one is that it is getting harder & harder to get operators to work the contests. Whether this is because of the way we run the operating, or because everybody is too busy in this age, we haven't been able to decide properly. Probably other factors affect this as well.

However, we have a very good station, that has produced some outstanding results over the last few years, & it would be a shame for it to just die. Also, it is imperative that the callsign ZL4A/ZM4A is used a few times a year in contests, to allow the club to keep them. If they are not used, the club will lose them, as we have to produce proof to NZART that they are being used, when it comes around to renewal time, once a year.

The station needs quite a bit of work to set up, & take down antennas each time there is a contest, & I would encourage whoever takes on the Contest managers job, to work in with Peter, the contest group, & the committee, to get a permanent 40m vertical installed. Further work is required on the 80m vertical to gauge its usefulness against the dipole. Improving the 160m antenna needs to be done as well. The ability to turn the beam from the PCU, & also to change & tune antennas from the PCU needs to be looked at. The ideal from a contester's viewpoint would be to do away with the tuning of the antennas, & make them resonate at the frequency of use. This allows for fast band changes, or frequency changes, which are not possible at this time. This is possibly not achievable on 80 or 160mtrs, due to the width of the bands.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter for the use of his QTH for our activities, & for putting up with us for another year.

Finally, I wish whoever takes on the Contest Managers role, all the best for future contests.

Ken
ZL4NR

NZART Branch 30 REPEATER REPORT - 2009

The year has been busy, but mainly in a backwards direction. The Kordia charging issue remains unresolved. During the year, the full charging regime appeared imminent so a working bee was held at Mt Cargill to remove the 915 repeater and its aerial structure entirely. At the same time, all transmitters were reduced to 10 watts to place all power charges on the minimum platform.

Site testing and calculations were carried out for alternative sites for the National System but as any alternatives will degrade performance, we are awaiting the outcome of NZART/Kordia negotiations. For the same reasons, any plans to expand further south are on hold.

An alternative site for 915 has been located and new licence applications will be lodged shortly. Testing and improvements to the transmitter and its duplexers are underway under the leadership of Alan ZL4FM.

Licences – All except 915 and the UHF club node for the National System were renewed in the November round of licencing. 915 was cancelled as it is shifting site and needs to start again while the UHF Club node is not needed as the majority of the forwarding occurs via the VHF hubs.

Mt Cargill

Apart from the work listed above, Mt Cargill has performed well during the year, albeit with the constant problem of de-sensing of the VHF receivers by the local QRM. As the only real cure is to shift the antenna to the mast, a significant improvement is unlikely, much as we would like it.

Highcliff

Dud's Transmitter failed and has been temporarily replaced by an Icom 310. 665 continues to perform well – plans are progressing to upgrade the feeders and aerials.

Cross-banders

The Highcliff cross-bander for Central Otago operates on marginal conditions suffering badly from local QRM. Options to shift to another nearby location will be considered when the landlord has finished their site upgrades – this will be many months away.

The Mosgiel cross-bander at Peter, ZL4LV's QTH performs well – our thanks to Peter for allowing this on his site and to his donation of aerials, feeders and power.

My thanks to my co-trustee Don ZL4GR for his constant vigilance in monitoring the various systems and assistance with problem solving and repairs. Our thanks also to Bede ZL4KX for his help with high level testing.

Martin Balch
Repeater co-trustee

If undelivered - please return to:



Place
Stamp
Here

**ZL4AA, Otago Branch 30
New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters
P O Box 5485, Moray Place, Dunedin**