



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

## WINTER EDITION - 2008

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

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### FROM THE EDITOR:

Conference has come and gone and what a memorable event it was. It was nice to see so many faces around Dunedin enjoying what we had to offer. The post event feedback has been very positive and reflects well on the club and all those involved with the organisation of the event.

This issue of the newsletter is a little shorter than some past copies. I only received a moderate level of information to publish so the result is obvious. If you have anything you would like to contribute to the newsletter please email / post me with it. I stockpile these items and use them for the following issue.

This will be my second to last newsletter. After three years as editor I have decided to relinquish this role and focus solely on being the clubs webmaster. While I have enjoyed the opportunity it's time for someone else to pick up the reins. If you are interested please contact me or a committee member to find out more.

Keep warm and enjoy your hobby.

73

PAUL - ZL4PH / [webmaster@zl4aa.org.nz](mailto:webmaster@zl4aa.org.nz)

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### 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), W.D Bailey (ZL4RW), D.J Stevenson (ZL4SB)

### BRANCH 30 – COMMITTEE:

- (Pres) Arthur Curline (ZL4TIK) 488-4032 / 027-488-2802 [zl4tik@kinect.co.nz](mailto:zl4tik@kinect.co.nz)
- (V/Pres) Alan Wilden (ZL4FM) 453-4420 / 021-145-2682 / [alan@navcom.co.nz](mailto:alan@navcom.co.nz)
- (Sec) Ross Chapman (ZL4RC) 487-6825 / 027-481-6260 / [zl4rc@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:zl4rc@slingshot.co.nz)
- (Treasurer) Bob Smith (ZL4OC) 477-0969 / [bob\\_smith@clear.net.nz](mailto:bob_smith@clear.net.nz)
  
- Lindsey Ross (ZL4KS) 488-2191 / 021-116-1686 / [zl4ks@woosh.co.nz](mailto:zl4ks@woosh.co.nz)
- Ken McVie (ZL4NR) 476-3464 / 027-381-8763 / [kenmc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kenmc@xtra.co.nz)
- Mike Beattie (ZL4DM) 476-6120

## BRANCH 30 - OFFICERS OF THE CLUB:

- |                       |               |        |          |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------|----------|
| • AREC Section Leader | Lindsey Ross  | ZL4KS  | 488-2191 |
| • Deputy AREC SL      | Martin Balch  | ZL4JH  | 454-3262 |
| • Contact Officer     | Ross Chapman  | ZL4RC  | 487-6825 |
| • Awards Manager      | Mark Lambert  | ZL4US  | 489-1900 |
| • Contest Manager     | Ken McVie     | ZL4NR  | 476-3464 |
| • EMC Officer         | Peter Johnson | ZL4LV  | 489-5884 |
| • Club Librarian      | Anne Watson   | ZL4WAH | 467-5620 |
| • Branch Newsletter   | Paul Hayton   | ZL4PH  | 456-4246 |
| • 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 |
| • BBS Sysop           | Mike Beattie  | ZL4DM  | 476-6120 |

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## 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 - WWW Site <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 (431.000 MHz simplex)
- Dunedin 915 Repeater (439.150 MHz)
- Dunedin 665 Repeater (146.650 MHz)

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

JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
6	ZL4OC	3	ZL4SB	7	ZL4LDS
13	ZL4LDS	10	ZL4WAH	14	ZL4US
20	ZL4US	17	ZL4TIK	21	ZL4PH
27	ZL4PH	24	ZL4RC	28	ZL4SB
		31	ZL4OC		

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, out of town and Echolink operators who want to take part. Monthly the NZART national broadcast 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 – WINTER 08:

- 🌲 July 9<sup>th</sup> - Activity Night / Committee Meeting at Branch 30 clubrooms
- 🌲 July 16<sup>th</sup> - Bring along a project to finish, we will help you with it.
- 🌲 July 23<sup>rd</sup> - Activity Night
- 🌲 July 30<sup>th</sup> - Activity Night / Silver Fern Rally Catch-up
- 🌲 August 6<sup>th</sup> - Talk on Digital Radio by Terry ZL4TAE
- 🌲 August 13<sup>th</sup> - Activity Night / Committee Meeting at Branch 30 clubrooms
- 🌲 August 20<sup>th</sup> - Construction Night
- 🌲 August 27<sup>th</sup> - Activity Night
- 🌲 September 3<sup>rd</sup> - Talk by Alan ZL4FM
- 🌲 September 10<sup>th</sup> - Activity Night / Committee Meeting at Branch 30 clubrooms
- 🌲 September 17<sup>th</sup> - Activity Night
- 🌲 September 24<sup>th</sup> - Activity Night

On August 9<sup>th</sup> 2008 we turn 80 years old!  
Listen to 690 for anniversary celebration updates during August.

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## PRESIDENTS REPORT:

It has been a long time since I have had the soldering iron on down at the club and I am looking forward to it. The last three months have been very busy. The activities at the club have been very interesting from Peter (ZL4LV) talking on meteor scatter to Paul (ZL4PH) talking about our zl4aa website.

Most of the time the conference committee was meeting every week at the club or at Ross ZL4RC's place to go through the activity to make the conference the best in a long time.

The feedback from the president of NZART Bruce Douglas (ZL2WP) was that he was impressed with the hard work the conference committee had done and the venue having everything at one place. It all goes down to good team work and I will say again thank to the committee to Ross (ZL4RC), Mike (ZL4OL), Charlie (ZL1VR) & Lindsey (ZL4LDS) for all the time they have put in. Thanks also to everyone who helped out over the weekend to make the conference the best in years.

Coming up the club will be having its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August while the Silverfern rally is our next challenge. It's much bigger than last year and we are looking for operators to help with the various stages - you will hear more about it soon.

**ARTHUR CURLANE - ZL4TIK  
PRESIDENT BR 30 NZART 2008**

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## 2008 RALLY OF OTAGO – TECH REVIEW:

Below, a technical background of the event with thanks to Martin (ZL4JH).

Last year we published a summary of the events going on behind the scenes leading into the rally and some of the operating and systems on the day. This year we will look at the technical layout – many more members may get to see some of this as some of the aerials have been left on the Southern Cross Hotel and they and some of the equipment will be re-used during the conference.

The operations area is one of the large conference areas on the fourth floor of the hotel. The main room is subdivided into 3 main sections, with our systems involved heavily in two of the areas.

At one end, equipped with large white boards to track the progress of the rally, and the lack of progress of some of the vehicles, are Clerk of the Course, Norman Oakley helped by Garth Tyrrel. This is the hot seat of activity when it comes to keeping the rally rolling.

Close by is the longest table in the room – ours. It is close to the Clerk of the Course as the most important information flow is between our operators and the Clerk of the Course. We are deliberately close by to enhance this information flow.

This year, we had five main radios operating

- Dual bander for 690 and 665 with 665 via the UHF cross-bander at Highcliff.
- UHF only for 675 via the cross-bander in Waverley.
- VHF 1 as utility receiver when any of the others got too busy.
- VHF 2 – normally used for the rally officials who were using commercial channels.
- VHF 3 – normally used for the Civil Defence channels for the first aid vehicles.

All the VHF radios were equipped with all channels in use so they could quickly be changed as the rally moved from area to area and some repeater channels become more important than others.

Each of these main radios used a discrete aerial on long feed lines to the roof of the hotel to ensure clear comms at all times. Generally we had three operators working at all times between the five radios, which between them were handling 6 frequencies. 690, 665, 675, CDA, CD 19, and the Commercial network of 4 linked repeaters used for the rally mobile officials.

And that takes us to the third main area of the operations room – the results and tracking area. This was the high traffic load area. Three benches were set up with a multitude of computers, two data projectors and three receivers capable of receiving all the channels we were using for the results and stage tracking from the field. As these were receive only, they used indoor aerials on the window sills.

When a call came in that results or tracking details were ready, we would use hand signal across the room to the results takers who would give a thumbs up if they had heard the call – our operator then gave the field operator the go ahead to start reading the numbers while we watched the results and tracking takers to ensure they were receiving OK. At the end of each block of numbers we would get a thumbs up that all was OK, or thumbs down and the call for a repeat.

Despite the use of sign language (Semaphore is not dead), the system worked extremely well with repeats rarely needed, despite the complexity of the system, especially on Sunday morning when a lot of ingenuity was required by those in the field to get the results through from an area that was very difficult radio coverage and at time required sharing the official channels. Of note here is that while at all times a hand written copy of the results or tracking was taken, one operator at all times was typing the results directly into the results computer!!

And why were those progress lists of car numbers so important from the start and all the mid-section stages – that is the safety life-line to ensure no cars have gone missing during a stage and to help track where an incident may have happened. Remember a few years back when one car disappeared deep into the Waipori River!

We can always find ways to improve systems, and this year we introduced several minor upgrades including a new higher gain aerial on the all important and vital 665 repeater. However, I think we can sit back and say that again we have supplied an excellent service and particularly for our operators at base, can really feel we are part of the rally and really enjoy working with the rally officials at HQ.

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## CONTESTING GROUP UPDATE – CQ TEST:

If you haven't yet had a look at the Oceania contest results check out <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/?issue=2008-06-25>

You will note that ZM4A achieved first place in the Multi - One section of both the SSB & CW contests. You may not think this is very significant when there is not much competition in this class, BUT have a good look at the total scores. Only the stations listed below, scored higher than us.

SSB results -- ZM4A - 457,560 Multi - One All Band

- VK4WIL - 2,524,200 Multi - Multi All Band
- VK4EMM - 1,079,364 Single Op All Band

This shows us as the 3rd highest score in the world.

CW results -- ZM4A - 1,335,600 Multi-One All Band

- ZM1A - 4,214,925 Multi-Multi All Band
- ZM2B - 1,530,565 Single-Op All Band
- KH6ZM - 2,377,620 Single-Op All Band
- VK7GN - 1,453,896 Single-Op All Band
- VK4EMM - 3,287,315 Single-Op All Band

This shows us as the 6th highest score in the world.

All this with one transceiver, a modest Amp, antennas, no cluster/telnet assistance, and some fun operating hours!

KEN MCVIE - ZL4NR  
CONTESTING GROUP BR 30 NZART

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## SILVER FERN RALLY 2008

Alistair (ZL4AO) writes:

*"This year there will be another "GORE RALLY" which will be similar to the one 2 years ago with some stages in the Blue Mts. There will be one new stage at the north end near Beaumont.*

*The rally will be held on the 2 Aug 08 and the HQ will be again in the Gore Scenic Circle Hotel. There will be some vouchers available for operators of last years rally and I will endeavour to get them out ASAP. We will likely use 675, 695, and some X band systems. We will welcome any operators who are available to join in. The Southland Rally has been cancelled due to insufficient support from the area.*

*We have operators who are available to help with the Silver Fern rally if required. I'll pass on any further info as it becomes available."*

Martin (ZL4JH) advises to keep an eye on the [zl4aa.org.nz](http://zl4aa.org.nz) website for more info about this rally along with forms etc. you will be able to download.

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#### EQUIPMENT FOR SALE:

Don (ZL4GR) advises that the club has on offer a Yaesu G-1000SPX antenna rotator and controller. The equipment has been connected and run by Don under test mode. You can view this gear at the Branch 30 clubrooms. Offers in writing (sealed envelope) are to be with Don by July 31<sup>st</sup> 2008.

If undelivered - please return to:



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

Place  
Stamp  
Here