

August 2025

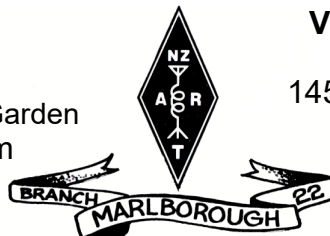
INTERFACE

MONTHLY BULLETIN

MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC. P.O. BOX 432 BLENHEIM NZ

CLUB CALENDAR

General Meeting;..... 14 Aug, 7.30pm, EOC
Social Group;..... 21 Aug, Dodson St Beer Garden
Committee Meeting; 28 Aug, 7.30pm, via Zoom



VHF Mondays 1930 hrs
146.950MHz,
145.600MHz, 147.225MHz
Net Controller;
Rob Carter, ZL2IW

BRANCH 22 NOTICES

1. Peter Mott on the Alpine Fault Net 14 Aug
2. Lighthouse Weekend 16/17 Aug
3. Constructors Award Night 11 Sept
4. Pick-over night 9 Oct

HF Net Tuesdays
2030 hrs 3876kHz

Website
www.zl2ks.org.nz

Editor: Caryl Simpson caryl.grant@gmail.com **MARC Contact:** marcbranch22@gmail.com



In accordance with revised MARC procedure, club Minutes will no longer be included in the newsletter, Interface. Minutes will be sent directly to members from the secretary and the newsletter will be solely for articles and items of interest.

This means I need a little more cooperation from you lot and more articles being sent. I have had a couple of people offer to write things but the more who do so, the more interesting the newsletter will be. Otherwise, it will be very short!



Eastfest will be held at Ashburton 28th October 2025.
A 1 day event at the Sinclair Centre, 74 Park St. Ashburton.
Car boot sale in the morning, programmes in the afternoon.
24hr 100 contacts Challenge to be held 1st Jan 2026

10 YEARS AGO

1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009

NOSTALGIA

2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

2016

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

PLAGUE

2020 2021 2022



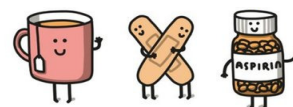
Thank you to all the Club members who took down my aerials and poles. This was appreciated. I also wish to thank all Club members for their help, support and friendship over the past 24 years.

*Best Wishes to you all,
ZL2TCO, David Clode*

Ron Harris is now resting at home after a mild heart attack had him staying briefly in Nelson Hospital. He is now at home and supposedly taking it easy for a couple of weeks. If anyone sees him doing more than he should, please give him a clip around the ear (if you can reach it, he's a tall lad) then sit on him. All the best for a speedy recovery Ron.

Between your heart and Helen's new knee and cataract removal, things should be quite slow around your place for a while!

Healing vibes to those other members who have been ill, had recent surgery, or are *still* hobbling around in a moon boot.



WISHING YOU MUGS, HUGS,
AND EFFECTIVE DRUGS!

MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB GENERAL MEETING

at EOC, 10th July 2025 at 19:30 Hours

Present: John Errington (Chair), Don Laing (Secretary), Greg Barton (Treasurer), Paul Rennie (AREC), Nick Batt, John Elvy, Anthony Winter, Ken Menzies, Graeme Dillon, Stuart Watchman, Adam Kibberwhite, Gary Lodge, Herrie ten Oever, Nelson Bateman

Apologies: Graeme McKay, Helen & Ron Harris

Visitors: None

Health & Safety: No issues

Constitution Update: Update circulated and no comments received. Has been uploaded to Companies Office portal and awaits their review.

News & Activities:

Lighthouse Weekend 16~17 August – Stuart W to coordinate in interim. To apply for permanent ZL6CC call sign for \$80 rather than temporary at \$30/time.

Action: S Watchman / D Laing

Ward Repeater Upgrade – Solar panels & transmitting equipment checking out OK. Shed repair awaits budget estimate from Rob Carter.

Action: G. Barton

Winlink Upgrade – Progressing well. New equipment being progressively installed. Pub Charity compliance requirements have been accepted.

Action: J. Errington

Equipment Sales – Surplus equipment has been audited with Committee agreed list to be sold via Trademe

Action: S. Watchman

Fox Hunts – Agreed to trial later during warmer settled weather

EastFest – Being held at Ashburton 18 October 2025

100 Contacts Challenge – To be held New Years Day 2026

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Tonight – Stuart Watchman Hamvention reported

14 Aug – Peter Mott on Alpine Fault net. By Zoom or in person

11 Sep – Constructors night

9 Oct – Pick-over night

13 Nov – ???

11 Dec – Xmas catchup

?? ??? - Star Party



GENERAL BUSINESS:

David Clode antenna removal – Still to be done. Stuart W. will call for help

Gary Lodge appreciated Branch Chaser support for his recent POTA expedition.

Paul Rennie passed on EOC appreciation for the 39 hours support provided by AREC for the recent weather emergency declaration.

Meeting Closed: 19:50

Next Committee Meeting (By Zoom): 24th July 2025 7:30pm

Next General Meeting (at EOC): 14th August 2025 7:30pm



Dayton
Hamvention® 2025
Radio Independence

Presentation: Stuart Watchman gave a very informative presentation of his recent attendance at the Hamvention & US Airforce Museum, Ohio, USA.

NOTE: This will be the last Minutes put into Interface. From now on, they will be sent to financial members directly.

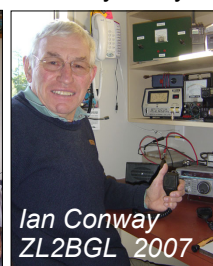
MEMBER PROFILES

In the long, dim, distant past, I used to profile a different club member each month. It was just a short piece, depending on how interesting their life had been, with where they were born/grew up, what they did for a living, what they did for a hobby, other than ham radio, and how they got into amateur radio sort of thing. I would also take a photo of them in their shack, if they had one.

It has been suggested, with the new members we now have, that we do more of these so we can get to know fellow members. Would anyone like to write their own profile? You can do a selfie if you want, or if you're in town somewhere I am happy to come and take a photo. I can also visit and "interview" you if you'd prefer and write the profile for you.

Hopefully I will end up with a series of profiles which can be inserted, one a month, into Interface.

Who's up first? No need to be polite and think someone else can start it. I hope to be inundated with profiles, or requests for me to "interview" you and/or take a photo.



CONSTRUCTORS AWARD — 11th September

CONSTRUCTORS AWARD RULES

You must have made your construction yourself. It can be anything you like, either from scratch or from a kit.

Most construct something amateur radio related but we also get a few electronic devices or computer related constructs. We've even had sculptures made from electronic/radio parts!

If you are unsure, contact a committee member and ask.

On the night, everyone brings their entries which are lined up on a table. After the meeting, each entrant is asked to briefly describe their entry. The judges (sucked into it on the night and, as a result, are open to bribery - choccy biscuits might work) then judge the entries while everyone else enjoys a cuppa.

The winner is then announced and presented with the trophy (pictured right), which they get to keep proudly on prominent display in their home, or radio shack, until next year.



YAGI BUILDING

Hi everyone. I thought I'd share my experience of building yagi antennas for my shack.

My name is Herrie ten Oever (ZL2HTO). I've been interested in ham radio since I was 15, in the Netherlands. My Dad did an electronics course building Maxwell radios, and I started off by studying his study materials. By the time I was 17, I had built my own shack (not entirely legally, back then!) For years I have wanted to get back into this great hobby, so I attended HamCram, passed and got my call sign in June 2024.

Having done that, I quickly started buying radios! But I wasn't sure what frequency I wanted to be on. DX was always something I had enjoyed. So I bought the Ic7300 and then the Ic7100, which is handy if you go mobile and it's a shack in the box. Not long after that I got an itch for the Ic7900. So, I had radios, and I had bought some antennas, but wasn't really happy with them - they are all on a frequency that I am not going to use. I sought advice from Club President John Errington, and he put me on to a really great calculator to build your own Yagi. I had thought I'd build an 8 element one but John suggested that might be too big. He said that if you build something smaller it doesn't make much difference in DbA (and he was right!), so I made a 6 element one.

So, off I went and bought aluminium rods and boxing, grabbed the hacksaw, tape measure, electric drill, drill press and pliers – and within 2 hours the antenna was built. I still needed to make a gamma match, which took a bit of time too. Next I put my antenna analyser on it and it didn't take long to get it working with a nice low SWR. I put my little 5 watt walkie talkie on it to see if I could hit the Picton repeater. Even though I wasn't using



much wattage and my yagi was just sitting on a trolley 2 metres off the ground and surrounded by trees and shrubs, I hit the repeater with no problems and got my first contact with Ron Harris – blew me away!

I've now built a 70cm yagi too, and next plan to build a yagi for my 23cm frequency. And my own antenna tuner. It's a great and rewarding feeling to make something yourself and to get it working. It's also great that there are other members ready to help with advice – so if you are thinking of doing it, do it, and don't be shy about asking for help.

73

- Herrie ten Oever, ZL2HTO

Ed's note: Grant & I had actually known new member Herrie since 2008 as we were all members of the Federation of NZ Aquatic Societies, Herrie keeping tropical fish in Nelson and us doing the same here. Back then we often travelled over to Nelson fish meetings but had no idea he was interested in amateur radio and he had no idea Grant had been a Ham for 40+ years at that point. We obviously never arrived in the work vehicle, which would have given him a clue. I think 14 was the highest number of aerals on it at any one time, not including a huge flower shaped one put on the back when not mobile. This pic shows 7, of 9 or 10, seen from the back.



5:40 Gamma matching online calcul...
https://3g-aerial.biz/en/online-calculatio

INPUT DATA:

Select measurement units
International System of Units (SI)

Operating frequency f:
15
MHz

Antenna input resistance R_a :
71.86
 Ω

Antenna input reactance jX_a
7.63
 Ω

Coax cable characteristic impedance Z_f
50
 Ω

Diameter of the dipole d
19.05
mm

Calculator

HORSE ENDURANCE EVENT NATIONALS ANZAC WEEKEND 2025

I would like to start this report with a big thank you to the team who helped make this event work. Thank you also to Heidi, for patiently answering my questions.

When we first heard there might be another horse event – the timing seemed a bit of an issue. A number of members had other plans for their extended weekend. The question was, could we provide comms for the event with whomever was available?

On the positive side, horse endurance weekends are one of the really cool events our club becomes involved with because endurance organisers, officials, and competitors, are so friendly to our team, this is a very popular event for our frequent fliers.

The first step is to whisper “Horse” in a crowded, and noisy meeting. As always, there are a bunch of hard, keen people (aka complete nutters), who immediately appear, and they are just “In” regardless of what else is going on. Thank you! We really appreciate your enthusiasm and this gave me the confidence to find a few more likely helpers.

Heidi, the endurance organiser, is very helpful as always and answered the questions as to what the requirements were likely to be. This is an event which tends to evolve a little in the making, thus we don't start with an exact picture, however it's enough to start putting names to positions. Acting on faith that we would find enough operators to fill the gaps, I suggested to Heidi, and club members, that we were a go! Next mission... create event spreadsheets, and fill the gaps!

Brief description of the event - horse endurance events exist for horse, and rider, to competitively cover large distances over a defined time frame. The total distances are made up of several distinct loops. There are various classes, and distances, depending on the experience, and capabilities of the horse/rider. The longest overall distance is 160km total. The longest intermediate loop is 40km. Horses are carefully monitored at the completion of each intermediate loop and the criteria is extremely strict. Any signs of a horse not coping, or even just looking like becoming lame, then that horse does not carry on. It's quite a deal, as there is also a stand down period of several weeks before the horse can run in another event.

It would take many more words to describe the true nature of the event. However, suffice it to say there are horse/rider combinations going in multiple directions at any given time. All carefully choreographed by the event organiser, in accordance with a very strict set of guidelines. Each time we are involved with this event, I learn so much more and am continually impressed by the dedication of the vets, judges, and other officials. The horse and rider combos are a stunning example of resilience, and raw determination.

We could only think of two varieties of land mammals that can run 100 miles in a day, whilst carrying a payload. Camels, and the particular breed of horse represented here. Understand, these are Arabian style horses. Whilst there appear to be no restrictions on the breed type, it would seem the Arabian style horse is simply the best choice. The Arabian looks to have been almost purpose designed for this style of event. From its very bone structure, incredibly efficient metabolism, respiratory system, and oxygen transport mechanism, this is the ‘formula one’ endurance horse. Kind of like the Siberian husky of the horse world, born to move! Basically, the Arabian sports a large air intake, efficient fuel system, coupled with body style, and a general ‘can go anywhere’ attitude.

We were able to observe these horses as they prepared for events, or were cooling down after a loop. Very easy to tell they all have distinct personalities. Some prance about as if saying “I can be a show pony too”, others have more of an “are we there yet?” look about them. Once they approach the start line, however, it is all business. There becomes a synthesis of equine and human spirit, The rest is simply poetry in motion – very nice to watch!

This year we were fortunate that the check points were in a fairly compact area. Vehicle access was relatively easy, making operator changeovers fairly straight forward. Communications were via our STSP. We always deploy the repeater for this type of event. Placed on a slightly raised location, the repeater provides consistent, strong, and reliable signals over the entire site. Everyone can hear everyone - life is just better that way. Thanks to Paul ZL2RE for establishing the repeater on site. Nice job. Appreciate your help!

We used the caravan as our radio base, and accommodation. On the Wednesday before the event we recovered the caravan from storage, and provisioned it for the weekend. Thanks to my brother-in-law, Martin, for his assistance with relocating the van. I was a bit sore and really appreciated his help to move the van around. The horse endurance base was located in a paddock a little west of Renwick on HW63.

Thursday saw us properly established on site. We were introduced to key people, with whom we needed to integrate our results. I still had one missing operator slot on the spreadsheet. Being that my plan to work around this was unusually dodgy (even for me), I called Linc ZL2CLT. Linc promptly adjusted his schedule to fill the gap. Many thanks Linc!

Our plan was to use operators in shifts. We used our experienced team, interspersed with operators who were doing their first event. Hopefully the first-time people enjoyed their experience... we would love to have you back on other occasions too!

Harry ZL4HGS, Ian ZL2BGL, and Gary ZL1GA decided they are tigers for the game, and were available on both operating days. Many thanks, gentlemen, I really appreciated your help in making this communications net possible. Nice work!

George ZL2GTX was also on the Friday early crew, at checkpoint 2 (CP2). This was particularly meritorious, as

George was heading to Christchurch immediately after his radio shift. Outstanding commit – great work, thank you so much.

Endurance events start early so we tried to get a few hours rest before start at 1AM on Friday 25th. Up around midnight, and get ready to communicate! The weather was fine, but chilly. The star scape was amazing, the milky way spread out like a huge carpet of stars above us. It seemed almost a shame when the organisers had to start up a couple of light poles. Everything was damp, as the dew was literally forming on all surfaces, including me! It is kind of a surreal experience with competitors getting ready in the start area. At the appointed time, (1AM) a number of riders head off into the darkness. Riders would usually wear a head torch. This is to see the navigation arrows on the vineyard, and generally find their way. I decided it was good to be a radio operator, and left the officials to their work. The caravan heater was most welcome.

Harry ZL4HGS had made it to CP1, communications were good. After a period of time, horses appeared at Harry's position. Rider numbers, and times, were relayed back to base. We started the process of getting information to where it needed to be. A little after 2AM the riders started to appear at CP2. George ZL2GTX rapidly got into the mode and successfully transferred the information to us. Horses reappeared again here in a few minutes but going in the opposite direction. Later these horses would arrive back at Harry's position, then arrive at the finish line a few minutes later, to complete their first loop. Around 7AM Linc ZL2CLT and Ian ZL2BGL relieved the early crews. Gary ZL1GA arrived at CP3 around 10AM. Thank you Gary, for coming off a POTA adventure to help us out. Paul ZL2RE joined CP1 at noon. Thanks Paul. We closed down various checkpoints as the riders completed their distance. Gary stayed for a time then we decided that Kaye could continue with base, while I headed down the road to CP3 in order for Gary to get a well-deserved break.

Saturday was a non-operating day for the radio team. Events were more of a club nature and the organisers were happy to give us the day off. Kaye and I used the day to tidy up the van then headed in to town for a longer shower!

Sunday was a sleep in – start time was 3AM! We added Herrie ZL2HTO, Ron ZL2BDD, Bill ZL2AYZ and Don ZL3DN to the operating schedule. Herrie overnighted in town in order to make the early start at CP1 – thank you!

Once again, we were treated to amazing starry skies... again the surreal images of horses being prepared in the shadows, then appearing in the pool of light, before heading off into the dark vineyards. We used both Herrie ZL2HTO, and Harry ZL4HGS at the first checkpoint. This checkpoint is really busy at the start of the event. The fab duo made a great job of relaying the information to base. Apparently, there was also time for star gazing and meteor watching. Having both of them at the one point turned out very well, however it wasn't my original intention. The mistake made was when I just used my rough operator schedule in the final notes. I simply used first names in my sheet, but didn't add any detail to it on the final iteration. OOPS – Herrie, is apparently the original derivation of Harry (I didn't know this till later). Imagine my surprise when I radioed the checkpoint and found we had a two for one deal. Thanks for working it out so well gentlemen, splendid job! Sunday progressed well, and we were effectively finished in the mid-afternoon.

Horse endurance events are always interesting. We have a few adventures and share much humour. This is important, as the actual physical conditions can vary from idyllic, to hellish, sometimes in the same day! Event competitors are usually very friendly to the field operators. There is banter exchanged, as well as calling out the all-important number on their jacket. Very important information exchange in the pre-dawn blackness! Ride base is usually an adventure too, sleep is optional but the company is always pleasant via the radio and the folks on the ground at base too.

Having a radio net is a luxury normally afforded to National events only. This means we had to integrate results with the start/finish marshals, the results team, and event organisers. We tried several options, then I rewrote my base spreadsheet to better reflect what the results team (and others) needed. This reduced much paperwork on the van table. It was also easier to track a horse/rider around the various loops.

Where there is no radio net available, there is a text-based system for sending in check point number, rider number, and time. Initially, we used a manual interface to bypass this but it relied on someone correctly interpreting our radio chatter. Once we integrated ourselves in to the text-based interface, things became more automated. A computer regularly parses the received text messages, then puts results into a nationwide database server that is tailored for all sorts of horse events. We did our best to give the start finish crew some warning that a competitor was inbound for the finish. Whilst this was never perfect, I think we got better during the event. CP1 is quite close to the ride base finish line... rapid information transfer is everything here.

Operators: Harry ZL4HGS, George ZL2GTX, Ian ZL2BGL, Linc ZL2CLT, Paul ZL2RE, Gary ZL1GA, Herrie ZL2HTO, Ron ZL2BDD, Bill ZL2AYZ

Base: Kaye ZL2KU, Rob ZL2IW

Logistical Support, Base: Kaye ZL2KU, Martin

Logistical support with STSP: Paul ZL2RE

Thank you so much to all involved, and your support teams at home. We really appreciate your help. Every operator was key to the success of this event. Very splendid job. Thank you so much. Hope to horse around with y'all again soon.

73

Rob ZL2IW



Photo taken from Rosey Deakin's post on the Marlborough Endurance & CTR Facebook page

NEW HAMS AWARD

(ie an award for new hams, not a new award for all hams)



This award has been introduced to allow New Hams get acquainted with portable operation and the skills that are required to work contacts. It uses the website ontheair.nz which lists places that are available to be used and where log sheets can be recorded as being activated.

This award requires at least two contacts per activation from places selected - can be any Lake, Hut, SOTA peak, POTA park, Island, Local park or reserve, Lighthouse.

Contacts can be made on 80m, 10m, VHF, UHF in first 3 months of licence thereafter any Ham Band or mode. Repeater contacts are acceptable.

The award is opened to any new ham and needs to be completed within 18 months of obtaining their Licence.

Awards will be issued for:

BRONZE - 5 ACTIVATIONS

SILVER - BRONZE PLUS 5 MORE ACTIVATIONS

GOLD - SILVER PLUS FURTHER 10 MORE ACTIVATIONS

To be clear, your activations can be made up of any combinations of the above. Eg 15 parks and 5 islands or 5 lakes and 10 parks and 5 huts if going for Gold.

Places listed on the website are grouped in districts and regions so places near to a New Hams QTH can be easily selected. When first using the website registration is required and from then on logging in when uploading logs.

Log Check Sheets are available from awards@nzart.org.nz

GETTING RID OF DAYLIGHT SAVING WOULD DECREASE CAR ACCIDENTS BY 70%!

For those in favour of daylight saving, which starts next month September 28th;

Studies have shown that the number of heart attacks increase with daylight saving time because of the loss of an hour of sleep. Car accidents have also been shown to increase. Both tend to decrease in number when daylight saving ends and people get the extra hour of sleep.

On a similar note, car accidents have been shown to decrease by about 70% in areas where school starts an hour later but this is no excuse for showing up for school late!

I'm sure those working already know this but just in case - working when daylight saving begins or ends; Early Sunday morning was chosen for the changeover because fewer people were working at that time, and this reduced the impact on workers and employers.

If you work when daylight saving begins, and the clocks go forward, you actually work an hour less, but you are entitled to payment for your normal hours. For example, if you were meant to work from midnight to 8 am, you will only work 7 hours, but you are entitled to be paid for 8 hours of work.

If you work when daylight saving ends and clocks go back an hour, you are entitled to any extra hours that you work. So, if you were meant to work from midnight to 8 am but actually work 9 hours, you will be paid for 9 hours of work.

Source - <https://www.govt.nz/browse/recreation-and-the-environment/daylight-saving/>

This is an email from Rick, ZL3RIK, who is off on a POTA excursion. Here is his schedule so some of you might be able to contact him to help with his activations.

Southern West Coast POTathon

Please note:

Times will be approx & some of the activations will depend on access & weather etc.

I'll try & keep everybody informed as the day progresses.

Information as to the exact frequency & times will be posted on <https://ontheair.nz/>

The 40M frequency will be around 7.085 or thereabouts & I'll try & spend at least half an hour at each activation site.

Friday 29th August, Starting north of Hokitika near Kumara

ZLP/WC-0468/ Cons Area Camerons 0000z = Midday **ATNO** (All Time New One)

ZLP/WC-0173 Cons Area Taramakau Riverbed 0100z = 1pm **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0263 Kumara Scenic Res 0200z = 2pm **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0244 Cons Area Chesterfield 0300z = 3pm **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0124 & NZ-0809 Cons Area Kapitea Creek 0345z = 3:45pm **ATNO**

Saturday 30th August Very little if any cell coverage today. Please spot me if you are able to.

ZLP/WC-0531 Cons Area Stafford (10 minutes from Hokitika) 2100z = 9am **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0109 & NZ-0553 Cons Area Big Dam Hill 2200z = 10am **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0146 & NZ-0829 Shamrock Creek Amenity Area 0001z = After midday. This will be done from the Goldsbrough Camping Area (DOC Campsite for the NZART DOC Lands Award)

Sunday 31st August; Hokitika to Ross via

ZLP/WC-0342 Cons Area North Bank Arahua Rd, (10 minutes from Hokitika) 2100z = 9am **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0584 Kawhaka Creek Scenic Reserve 2200z = 10am **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0477 Prossers Bridge Rec Reserve, 0001z = Midday ish **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0086 & NZ-0533 Butlers Cons Area 0100z = 1pm **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0480 Cons Area Frosty Creek 0230z = 2:30pm **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0471, ZLFF-0037 & ZLL/0446 Lake Mahinapua Rec Reserve 0400z = 4pm

Monday 1st September

ZLP/WC-0498 Historic Reserve, Ross 2100z = 9am **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0136 & NZ-0819 Fergussons Bush Scenic Reserve 2200z = 10am **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0268 Cons Area Little Waitaha River 0001z = midday **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0430 Kakapotohi Scenic Reserve 0100z = 1pm **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0171 Waitaha Scenic Reserve 0200z = 2pm **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0197 Puekura Scenic Reserve 0300z = 3pm **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0088, ZLFF-0035, NZ-0265 **ATNO** & ZLL/0361 Lake lantha etc. 0400z = 4pm

Tuesday 2nd September from Ross to Harihari

ZLP/WC-0093 & NZ-0538 Wanganui Riverbed Cons Area 2200z = 10am **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0312 Cons Area La Fontaine ?cell coverage 0001z = midday **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0137 Oneone Wildlife Management Area No cell coverage 0100z = 1pm **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0144 Cons Area Wanganui Forest 0130z = 2:30pm **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0432 Cons Area Poerua Riverbed 0330z = 3:30pm **ATNO**

Wednesday 3rd or Thursday 4th September

ZLP/WC-0121 & NZ-0808 Wilberg Range Scenic Reserve After midday **ATNO**

Wednesday 3rd or Thursday 4th September, Day trip to Whataroa & Okarito

ZLP/WC-0126 & NZ-0813 Mt Hercules Scenic Reserve.? cell coverage 2200z = 10am **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0508 Whataroa Rec Reserve 0001z = Midday **ATNO**

ZLP/WC-0603, ZLFF-0034 & NZ-0264 Okarito Cons Area & Reserve 0230z = 2:30pm **ATN**

ZLP/WC-0313 Cons Area Okarito Forks 0430z = 4:30pm **ATNO**

Friday 5th September???

Look for any further spots & or alerts on <https://ontheair.nz/>

Hello ZL3!

I'm an enthusiastic operator of SSTV and DSSTV on 40 metres (usually 7171 kHz). For DX on 40 metres, NZ is a good test for my little Yaesu FT-891 100W transceiver and 40m dipole antenna. For this reason, I've found a few particular web-SDR's in NZ excellent to check my output. Many are 'deaf', but a few have been set up well in good locations, and yours appears to be one of the best.

Up to this time, the web-SDR that used to operate at the Bay Of Islands (North Island) up to 2022 was excellent, but is now QRT. Marahau is good, though not in an especially quiet location. Rotorua was good, but now appears to be offline. The web-SDR receiver now at the former QTH of Ron Falconer ZL4RMF (Scrogg's Hill, overlooking Mosgiel, a bit South of Dunedin) is great, but does suffer from some switchmode supply spots. If you can dodge those, it's good. Last night I tried your new (Marlborough branch) web-SDR, and the result blew me away!

I attach pics received from me at around 1 AM, your time, just using the internal decoder on your web-SDR, nothing elaborate, and the SSTV from my little transmitter came through your end almost noise free (refer attached pics, right).



I just wanted you to know that whatever you've done in selecting the antenna system or the location for your web-SDR, you're on the right track. It currently seems to be the best in NZ.

You may have noted that I checked into the ZL2KS web-SDR on 40 metres for lengthy periods over the last few evenings. Sorry if I caused any congestion thereby, but when I tell you what we were up to, I think you'll understand. By way of explanation, we have been testing a new form of picture compression CODEC, the *.avif picture file system (designed to replace the *.jpg for heavily compressed images) combined with 'Easypal' digital SSTV software in an attempt to transmit high quality, noiseless pics on HF in a reasonably brief period. I'm happy to say that tonight we succeeded, transmitting a couple of examples (the KA7OEI circuit and the pic of Edison from 1878).

The idea for this major SSTV improvement over the past usage of *.jpg and *.jp2, came from young Matt Davey VK3ARD who is from the ranks of software developers - and is an extremely clever young bloke. To produce the .avif compression I use an online conversion program from *.jpg original files, called 'Squoosh', here: <https://squoosh.app/>. Using 'squoosh', starting with (for instance) a 1080p image - 3840p x 2160p, I reduce the picture size to either 50% or 25% of original (in Squoosh). Then I reduce the number of picture colours to 64 for a colour photo, to 24 for greyscale b&w, or to 2 colours for line copy (eg. circuit diagrams). I then dial up the *.avif intelligent file compression protocol and reduce the file to around 15% or 20% of that, with 'effort' set firstly to 4 to check the result, then I increase that for a final result to '8' or '9' on the 'effort' scale provided.

I use Easypal freeware to transmit the resultant *.avif file by using the 'Load Any' tab, rather than 'Load Pic', and transfer it as I would any random digital file.

The pictures do not come up in any picture viewer - not IrfanView or anything like it. The pictures come up in a web browser - Firefox or similar. You have to dig the initial *.avif file from Easypal temp and direct it to your browser, but thereafter the association should continue automatically.

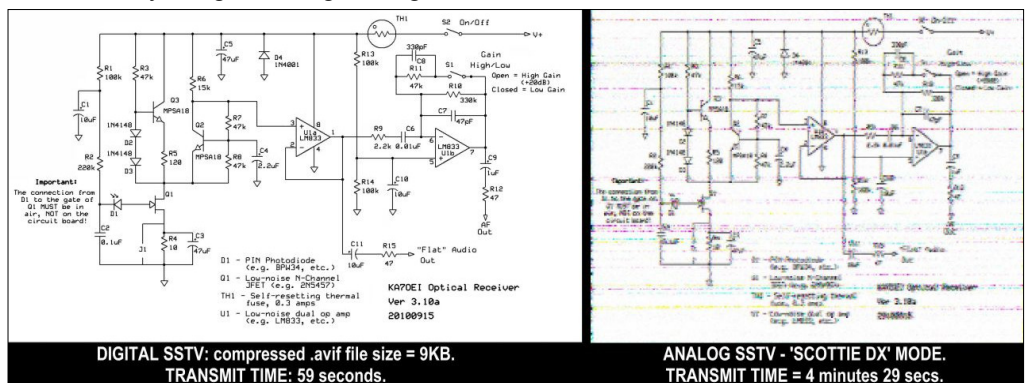
It's circuitous and fiddly, but the result produces a far higher definition image in a file not less than 5K, not exceeding 40K. One would hope that an upgraded version of Easypal for file transfer based on *.avif rather than the elderly, inefficient and fuzzy *.jp2 files will eventually be written by some clever software developer.

I also attach several comparative examples that I've sent variously by *.avif/Easypal and by ScottieDX today, recorded from my Melbourne 40 metre transmissions from the output of the Tarlee web-SDR, VK5ARG.

But the first two images through NZ were via your web-SDR tonight, decoding your ZL2KS Internet audio stream here from a second computer on my desk. Now all we have to do is to get a ZL operator set up with Easypal freeware and we might make it a two-way image exchange using the *.avif CODEC.

Best wishes,

Christopher Long, VK3AML
78 Newhaven Road,
Burwood East 3151,
Victoria, Australia.
Tel: +61 3 8802 7206 or
mobile 0438 124 252.



DIGITAL SSTV: compressed .avif file size = 9KB.
TRANSMIT TIME: 59 seconds.

ANALOG SSTV - 'SCOTTIE DX' MODE.
TRANSMIT TIME = 4 minutes 29 secs.



For those who didn't read Don's email, here it is again. It also affects sports, arts, culture and social sectors who all depend on gaming trusts for their funding. See a further article in Stuff, 9th Aug. about the huge funding hit...

Pub Charity has been a major benefactor to MARC several times contributing significant sums to purchase equipment to enhance MARC capabilities in the field as well as establishing Winling & SDR. It would be a pity to have their fundraising capabilities for the benefit of many community organisations diminished. **Please note that submissions close soon 17 August**

On behalf of Martin Cheer, Managing Director – Pub Charity

The Government has introduced legislation that will allow for up to 15 online casino licenses to be issued. While the same legislation creates exclusive monopolies for the TAB for sports betting and LOTTO for lottery products, the proposed law will subject the community gaming sector to unprecedented and inequitable competition.

The proposed online casino licenses will pay less Duty to the Government than the community gaming sector and **WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO MAKE COMMUNITY GRANTS.**

Community gaming was approved for operation in 1988 on the grounds that 100% of its profits are distributed or applied to authorised community purposes.

Offshore online casinos will compete directly with and take money from community-based gaming. 100% of the profits for the online casinos will be repatriated to private shareholders, many of whom will be based offshore.

Currently, with the exception of LOTTO and the TAB, online gambling cannot be directly promoted or advertised in New Zealand.

If the Online Casino Bill is passed in its current format, online casinos will compete head to head with community gaming, and any migration or loss of revenue will result in lower, not higher tax revenue for the Government and funds that might have been for community grants will go offshore.

To accommodate the change, the Minister of Internal Affairs has described grant funding as a 'perverse' consequence of the current model and, as such, something not to be missed.

The government is currently asking for members of the public to submit their views to the select committee. **Submissions close on 17 August 2025.**

Historically, the Department of Internal Affairs has maintained that online gambling was of interest to a small minority of players and its presence in New Zealand was too difficult to make illegal.

The Department now claim that the proposed Bill will make non-licensed online gambling illegal with punishments for those who play and enable play like banks.

If this deterrent is available and non-approved online gambling could be made illegal, why not simply make online casino gambling illegal in New Zealand, as it technically is now.

In December 2023, the previous Government introduced an intensive supervisory regime for community gaming venues. This Government, in the name of an attempted tax revenue grab, will undermine the largest single source of charitable funds in New Zealand.

You may have already received communication from Sport NZ on this or from the GAMING Machine Assn of NZ, encouraging you to make a submission opposing these measures, or at the very least requiring a substantial portion of online casino profits be retained for community grants.

Do not limit your response to just from your organisation. Encourage members and participants to make submissions and, if possible, turn up personally to the Select Committee hearings.

Please see below an example put together of what a submission to the select committee on this issue could look like, personalise a submission to your organisation's circumstances – tell your story about what you do for your community.

Submission to the Select Committee on Proposed Online Casino Legislation

I am writing to express concern regarding the proposed legislation that would allow up to 15 companies to operate licensed online casinos in New Zealand. While the initiative may aim to regulate and manage online gambling, it currently lacks a crucial requirement: ensuring that licensed operators contribute meaningfully to New Zealand's not-for-profit community.

Class 4 funding is already under pressure, and the introduction of another form of gambling may further reduce the level of community funds available. Without a clear requirement for online operators to contribute, there is a real risk that community organisations will suffer.

Funding from Class 4 operators plays a critical role in sustaining our organisation and the communities we serve. It enables participation in sports, arts, education, and other community activities by helping cover essential costs. Without this support, many organisations would struggle to provide services and opportunities that benefit New Zealanders from all walks of life.

We oppose the Bill as proposed.

It is imperative that your position and submission is in your own words. Here is the address for the submission page for the Online Casino Gambling Bill. You can click the link in Don's email or copy and paste this address into your browser: https://www.parliament.nz/en/ECommitteeSubmission/54SCGOA_SCF_15AF0468-FAB5-4BFD-AB1D-08DDB77FF1E9/CreateSubmission