

August 2026



ZL1REG Radio Nets

Here is a list of Radio nets that the Club runs weekly.
I have also added nets that are located near us for your information.

VHF Net Sundays 7.30 pm on the ZL1REG Repeater 147.125Mhz No tone

6 Mtr SSB Net Thursdays 1900hrs 51.500 Mhz We are using USB. NC ZL1SE

2 Mtr SSB net Thursdays 7.30pm 144.220 USB NC ZL2TKH

HF Net Thursdays 8 pm 3615 Khz LSB NC ZL1PO

Sunday Night 1900. 432.220 USB

NON-Branch related nearby nets:

Every day except Sunday 9am on 147.125 Local 2 Mtr net. Net Controller ZL2BAT
Brian (2) We call this the "Welfare" net

Every Sunday 9am Waitomo Net on 147.375 Net Controller ZL1HZ Mick -ZL1IZ

Sunday 0830 ZL1VK Papakura Radio Club net 146.625

Feel free to contact me if you think other nets of interest could be added here.

July Club meeting Saturday 8th August 1300 at the Glenview Club rooms.
Topics- TBA

Editors Note:

Hello everyone, the months are flying past aren't they.

There are a few new Phone/PC apps now available for Digital voice modes that I have written about in an article in this issue. Hope you find them useful. Probably particularly good for the new hams as they are not physical equipment that is required to purchase.

The next hamcram is scheduled for 17-18th October please advertise this with your friends and acquaintances and pass on my contact details.

My new Meshcore repeater from Seed Studios is working a treat. The 5W Solar panel is more than keeping up with the power requirements.

Next cruises booked for October 2028 Perth to Sydney over the top of Australia via various ports. Feb 2029 Singapore to Tokyo via Vietnam-2 ports.

Hows everyone doing on HF? Id be grateful for any reports of what folk are hearing.

The club plans to do some physical changes to the room. Have a look at the diagram of the proposed changes. The plan is in this newsletter As you will know its sometimes standing room only at our meetings. I know a good problem to have with expanding membership. So hopefully this solution will greatly help.

Usual request for articles from members please. I am generally disappointed with the lack of feedback from club members Ill have to say. This is your club so please contribute.

Now here is an interesting challenge. Im looking at AI to create the newsletter, this would basically be the formatting side and see how it all works out. Remember I did night classes last year on it. So we shall see how it turns out. I promise you Ill tell you when this has started- Hihi

73's all

de Chris ZL2CJ

President's Corner:

This month we've seen 3 new members join, and you may already have noticed, we're growing not only in number (hence standing room only at our meetings) but in scope, with a Green Radio Group forming, many successful HamCrams, and increasing YL membership.

The Radio Electronics Group has further reason to celebrate, being 20 years since formation in 2006.

With last months meeting voting unanimously to support the planned expansion of our main meeting room, this has been put forward to the Glenview Club. They're keen to see us implement this modification, which shows the fantastic working relationship that has been built up with the Glenview Club over many years. I'm hoping to have further updates on this at the August meeting.

Kevin

ZL2TKH

**Club Website now Live Radio Electronics Group (REG) - ZL1REG |
Amateur Radio Club Hamilton, New Zealand**

Ham Radio Vlogs-Use full AmateurRadio.com • Ham Radio Blog

**Ham Radio Resources: The Top Blogs and Websites (hamradioprepper.com)
My Amateur Radio Story & My Advice for New Hams (youtube.com)**

KM1NDY – A Secret Little Adventure Ham Radio Blog

(2) Radio Electronic Group (Inc) | Facebook this is our own Club Facebook Page

The Best Ham Radio Cartoons PART TWO (youtube.com)

Ham Humour | NewHams.info

<https://www.voacap.com/hf/> Propagation predictions and long/short path calculations

<https://www.arnewsline.org/> Amateur Radio Newsline this is what is broadcast on the NZART national broadcast BTW.

Hamradio Blogs best: <https://hamradioplanet.com/top-10-ham-radio-blogs-and-websites-to-follow/>

<https://hamweekly.com/>

<https://daily.hamweekly.com/> Amateur Radio Daily

[SWS - Global HF - Ionospheric Map The Australian Bureau of meteorology. Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre](#)

DXNews.com DX Calendar December 2025 This site changes monthly and lists the DX stations and their details

<https://www.solarham.com/> Solar Ham

RSM Silent Key Call Sign List

If you are entering the hobby or want to change your existing call sign for a new one check the RSM listing of vacant call signs.

[Silent keys | Radio Spectrum Management New Zealand](#)

Sites WaiPlenty Network Pics and details of the Waikato VHS Group

Informal Meet up

Every 2 weeks there is an informal catch-up of Hams at the Workingmen's club on a Tuesday at 1730 hrs. August 11h & 25th meet-ups are good to catch up have a chat, drink and a feed. Add it to your calendar.

REG Equipment Library : For some time now REG have had an equipment library, made up of items generously donated by our members and others outside the club. This is made up of a handheld UHF/VHF FM dual-bander, dual band FM mobile, various power supplies and a range of test equipment. We have a book as the central equipment register, where members can book out equipment items for up to 3 months at a time.

Our club 'Equipment Librarian' is Kevin ZL2TKH (021-441999) who can answer any questions, and book out equipment.

Club UHF Repeater: Is now operational. Rx 433.875, Tx 438.875 No tone.

NZART Contest Calendar | New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters

August, 2026

- Each Tuesday in August [Winter Sprints](#)
- 15th and 16th [WIA Remembrance Day \(RD\) Contest](#)

Google Gmail HF Net Calendar

If you want a link to the Gmail HF net calendar then please get in touch with myself. It has all the known HF nets throughout ZL. This list is monitored to ensure accuracy. You have the ability to turn it off/on, which is a bonus. The link below should work as well

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=myzl1cjh%40gmail.com&ctz=Pacific%2FAuckland>

New Zealand and Australia Amateur Radio Magazine download:

There are many issues to download now. They are a good read. I have a small article in issue 3 on the Google HF net Calendar. Have a look around the website as well where they sell antennas, radios, and accessories. [New Zealand and Australian Amateur New Zealand Radio Magazine – The Ham Shack](#)

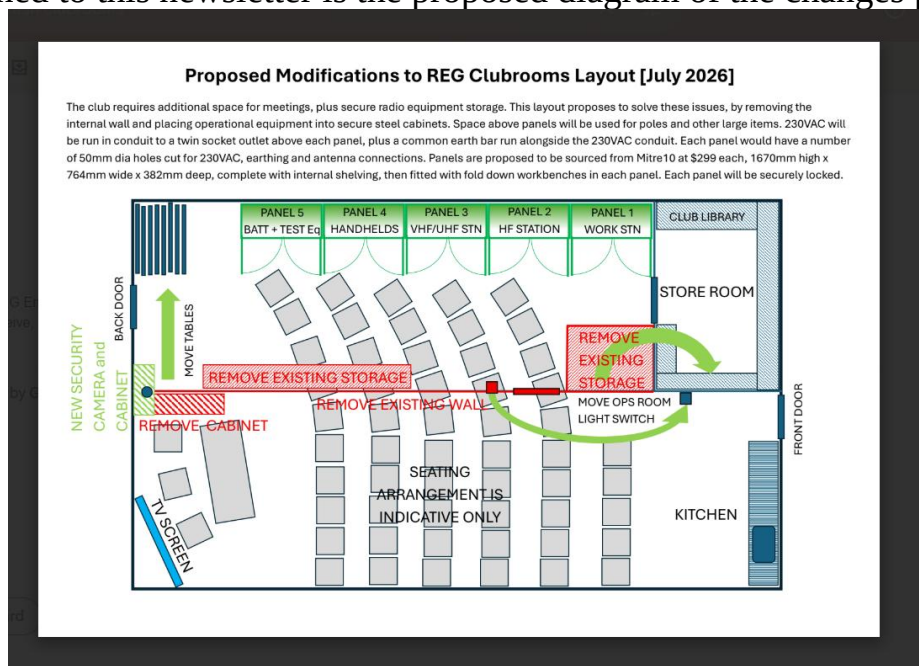
DX Calendar Link:

<https://dxnews.com/calendar/2026/july/>

<https://hamradio.shaneburrell.com/dxpeditons>

Proposed New Clubroom Diagram

Attached to this newsletter is the proposed diagram of the changes planned



New Digital Mode Apps

Over the last few months I've noticed several new Apps that can be used on mobile phones/laptop that enable access to some of the various Voice digital modes such as DMR/C4FM/Dstar/Allstar/Echolink.

Up until now there has been available Echolink/Droidstar/. These enable the user to connect to various Voice digital modes on their cellophanes.

Now the new apps : QSO One <https://qso1.net/> does DMR/YSF/Allstar/echolink/M17 This on both Android phone and PC.

VOXDMR <https://www.voxdmr.com/> connects to all the various DMR varieties. Freedmr and DMR+. Android/windows/linux

Z3DMR <https://z3dmr.com/> gets good reports and again works on all the DMR modes.

So it appears there has been a proliferation of these apps recently. It appears they are also using AI coding to develop which can cause there own problems.

New Club members welcome.

Welcome to the club, these new members

Bruce ZL1BCT Usually hear him mobile in the mornings.

Dean ZL1SE Dean runs our 6 mtr net on a Thursday night

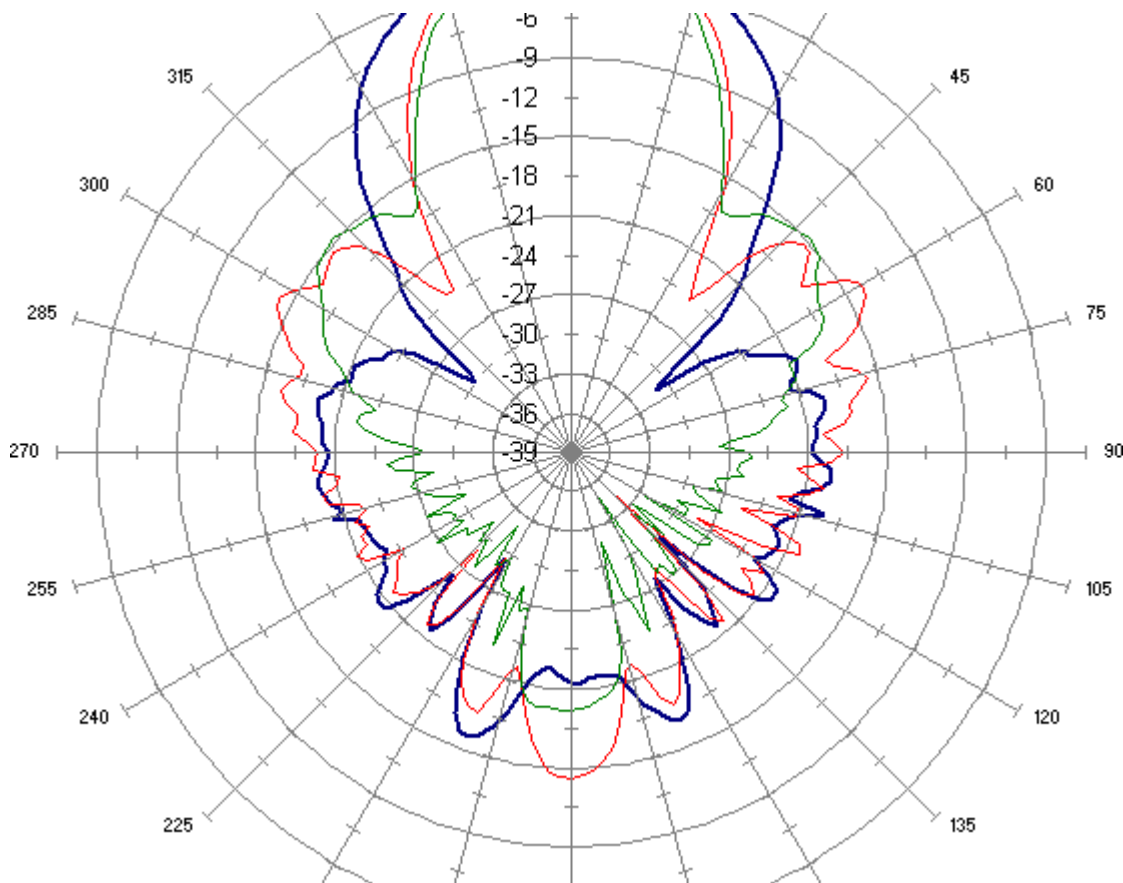
Dave ZL1BOG/VK4DXM friend of John ZL1PO

Club donations-Thanks :

A thank you to the following for club equipment donations : Les ZL1KF ,Blue ZL1BMS ,Martin ZL1MX ,Russell ZL1RWR, Chris ZL2TCH and all others.

This space can be yours!! Please consider sending me articles of what you have been up to. Experiments/failures, anything radio-related.

How to read antenna Charts :



I was talking to one of the customer service reps at Solid Signal and they were confused about antenna pattern charts. We both agreed that it was a good subject for a blog post.

What you see at the top of this article is an antenna reception chart. It's also called a pattern chart, a polar plot, and a lot of other things. It's supposed to tell you how well the antenna can perform at different angles. If you learn to read one, it will help you choose the right antenna.

The basics

The easiest way to understand this chart is to imagine you are hovering right above an antenna. The front of the antenna, which points toward the towers, is at the top. Don't worry right now if that's actually north, south, east, or west or even somewhere in between. What you're doing is imagining the front of the antenna at the top.

The chart is going to tell you how sensitive that antenna is at different angles. When I say "sensitive," I mean how well it picks up signals. Obviously you want an antenna that's very sensitive so it picks up the most channels, but in order to get an antenna that's sensitive in one direction, sometimes you have to sacrifice sensitivity in other directions.

For now we're going to concentrate on the thick blue line. I'll explain the other lines in a minute.

How to interpret the chart

The further away a line is from the center of the plot, the more sensitive the antenna is in that direction. The closer the line is to the center, the less signal the antenna is going to receive. So, let's look at that plot again at top. The blue line is very far from center at the top, and pretty close to center in other directions. That tells you that this is a directional antenna. It picks up signal really well from the front and not super well from the sides.

You can also get an idea of the beam width. Beam width is loosely defined as how far off you can aim the antenna and still have it work. You'll see there's a decent area to the left and right of the top where the line is still pretty far from center. This means it's got a decent beam width.

If you're the sort of person who can read compass headings, in fact, you'll agree that the beam width of the antenna in this chart is about 30 degrees. That's the area where it's still receiving a lot of signal.

What about the other colors?

If you're really serious about an antenna, you'd want to have a plot like this for every single channel. The reception pattern is going to vary by frequency. Generally, you'll get two plots at most though; one for VHF and one for UHF. Sometimes they will be two completely different things. Other times, like the plot we're talking about, they're distinguished by different colors. What you're seeing here is that the blue represents UHF and the pink represents VHF-High. There's also a

green line that represents VHF-Low. (I know it's not labelled. It would be labelled in most cases. That's not the point.)

So what we see here is that this antenna is pretty good in both VHF-High and UHF. The beam width in the VHF-High frequencies isn't as wide. You can see that because the pink line at the top isn't as wide as the blue line. This antenna also does very well in VHF-Low, which is pretty rare for an antenna made these days. VHF-Low channels require a large antenna and most people just don't tend to want that.

Still confused?

You don't have to go it alone. If you are still having trouble understanding antenna charts or just want someone to walk you through the process, we're here for you! Solid Signal has real technicians in our Novi, Michigan office who are trained to help you choose the right antenna. We're here during East Coast business hours. Email us at info@solidsignal.com. You'll get someone on the phone who really knows what they're talking about. If it's after hours, fill out the form below. We'll get back to you, usually within one business day.

Source:

<https://blog.solidsignal.com/tutorials/how-to-read-antenna-pattern-charts/>

RADIO ELECTRONICS GROUP

NEXT HAMCRAM AMATUER RADIO COURSE



Glenview Club, 211 Peacockes rd,
Hamilton .

17/18th October

Contact Chris Hattan

myzl1cjh@gmail.com

LIMITED
SEATS
ENROLL
TODAY!

Registrations for the next hamcram are starting to trickle in.

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Hours of Operation

Monday 3:30pm - 7:30pm

Tuesday 3:30pm - 7:30pm

Wednesday 3:30pm - Late

Thursday 3:30pm - Late

Friday 3:30pm - Late

Saturday 1:00pm - Late

Sunday 11:00am - 7:30pm

Peacockes Restaurant Hours

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday

6:00pm - 8:30pm

Sunday Brunch

11:00am - 2:00pm