

# The Cat's Whisker!

## The Wanganui Amateur Radio Society Inc., Branch 48 NZART

[www.zl2ja.org.nz](http://www.zl2ja.org.nz)



### Club Officials 2014-2015

Position	Name	Callsign
Patron:	Strath Davis	ZL2AAJ
President:	Jason Wallace	ZL2FT
Vice President:	Jeff Howe	ZL2THO
Secretary:	John Love	ZL2JEL
Treasurer:	John Love	ZL2JEL
Committee:	Stephen Swartz	ZL2SWZ
	Ivan Horn	ZL2ATU
	Mike Newman	ZL1BNB
	Colin Wilson	ZL2WM
<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Jason Wallace</b>	<b>ZL2FT</b>
Checker:	Leo Boyle	ZL2BGE
Newsletter Editor:	Colin Wilson	ZL2WM
Awards Custodian:	Ivan Horn	ZL2ATU
Webmaster:	Colin Wilson	ZL2WM



**The Next General Monthly Meeting will be held:**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2015**

**at the Hunters and Stalkers Hall, Peat St.**

**At 7:30pm**

**Business: General.**

**Followed by the AGM at approx. 8pm.**

**All Very Welcome!**

**Don't Forget to Bring Along Your Outgoing QSL Cards to the Meeting Too!**

*“Just the Cat's Whiskers”*

## From the Editor

Hello everyone,  
I'm back!

Sorry about the lack of newsletters over the last few months. Has been quite a hard few months for me, ending with a nasty dose of that 'flu thing that's been doing the rounds. Still have quite a bad cough that does doesn't want to go away.

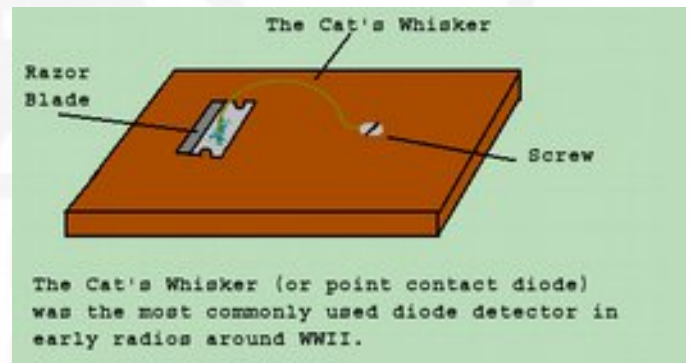
Someone told me that it might be the dust from all the silt washed into the land and mixed with the sewage from the June floods, not a nice thought!

I might add that some of this newsletter was going to be the June issue, so some it

might a be a bit old!

Hopefully I'll be able to make it to the October meeting. Dont forget there is also the AGM afterwards

Colin ZL2WM



### M.A.R.S Annual Table Sale. (Branch 20)

Date;  
Saturday 10th October 2015

Location;  
Longburn Hall, State Highway 56, Longburn

Time;  
Vendors ONLY from 8am  
Open to Public from 9am

Cost;  
Full Size Tables \$25 Full Size  
Half Size Tables \$15 Half Size  
(cost many change)



Source; <http://www.daweeklycomic.com/>

John McNelly

## El Presidente Reporta. 2014-2015

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014-2015

2015 has been a fairly quiet year for the club as a whole.

We have had a few visitors over the year so hopefully soon we will have some new members join the club.

Firstly I would like to thank a few of the members;

Colin Wilson, ZL2WM for his taking over the role of newsletter editor, the newsletters that Colin has produced have been of a high standard and well worth the read.

Another member of note is Ivan, ZL2ATU who brings along to the club meetings a yummy supper, its much appreciated by clubs that attend the meetings.

Also thanks to all that helped make ZL2JA take part in field day again this year. Of note is Graham, ZL2AHR for arranging the site and Ivan for the use of his caravan.

The Junk sale was held again this year in May, attendance was down this year compared with last year, my thanks go to Graham, ZL2AHR and all who helped him run this years sale.

The clubs new 40" LED TV has been used for a few meetings now to show photos and some videos of interest to members, so we look forward to some more interesting subject matter to watch on the TV.

It has been noted at the meetings that it has been difficult to get enough volunteers to help with car club events , on the radio communication and marshaling side of things.

I would like to thank John, ZL2JEL for his continued contact with the Wanganui Car Club and his efforts in helping to assist with there requests for operators, I am sure all club members know of how difficult it can

be to get enough operators to assist at times for these events and that we in this hobby are not alone in the struggle to get enough helpers at times.

There also has been some discussion on matters with the local repeaters and possibilities of linking them to other repeaters to help increase the amount of traffic on them, I am sure there will be more discussion on this matter throughout 2016.

And a reminder of all those with VHF capabilities and who can access 690, to try and com up on Tuesday Nights at 8pm to help keep numbers up on the local 690 net.

Thanks to all the net masters and members who join in for the weekly net who help keep the repeater active and used.

Also some discussion on new modes on VHF and the UHF bands such as DMR digital radio.

I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM in October and look forward to see what 2016 will bring.

73 to all

From Jason Wallace

ZL2FT

President Branch 48

Wanganui.







*Ivan Horn, ZL2ATU at the NZART National Conference 2015*

*Image Credit ZL2DGK*

## Whanganui River to Face Charges

The Whanganui River has been charged with Property Damage and Breaking and Entering, after illegally entering over 200 properties in the city on Saturday, and has been summoned to appear in the Wanganui District Court. The river has appeared in this court once before, in an unannounced visit last weekend. The case is being watched closely by legal scholars around the world, as the Whanganui River is the only river in the world to have been granted legal personhood, and therefore the only river that can be charged with a civil or criminal offence.

The idea of granting rivers legal personhood is based on the widespread practice of granting legal personhood to corporations. Corporations across the Legalese-speaking world have been recognised as persons for many years, and the US State of Texas has executed 7 corporations in the last year alone. The last river in New Zealand to be put to death was the Pukaki River near Twizel, in 1976.

A number of other New Zealand rivers are said to want to be anthropomorphised in the same way as the Whanganui River, but because they are not already legally recognised as people, their wishes do not have any legal weight.

The Whanganui River is expected to argue in its defence that it is the rightful owner of the flood plain the premises were located on, because it built them up with soil carried laboriously down from the North Island High Country, over a longer time period than even tuataras can conceive of.

Papers were served on the Whanganui River on Tuesday. They quickly became sodden and mushy, and eventually ended up stuck in the branches of a tree in Gonville. Local geography experts predict the river is unlikely to ever see the inside of a prison cell – partly for reasons of topography, but also because the river has no eyes, only a mouth..

*From Facebook, Author Unknown*

## Smartphones Could Run 30 Percent Longer, by Harvesting Their Own Radio Waves *[Gizmag.com]*

Source; <http://www.gizmag.com/smartphone-radio-wave-scavenging/37702/>

By Ben Coxworth

Scientists have already devised systems that allow electronic devices to scavenge power from ambient electromagnetic energy sources such as radio waves. While the technology has generally been limited to small devices such as wireless sensors, a research team has recently created a scavenging system that charges a smartphone's battery, letting it last up to 30 percent longer per charge – and the system does so using radio signals emanating from the phone itself.

Developed by scientists at The Ohio State University led by Prof. Chi-Chih Chen, one of the keys to the system is the fact that it's harvesting radio waves where they're still strong, right at their point of origin. By contrast, systems that attempt to generate electricity using whatever "diluted" waves happen to be passing through the air tend to take a long time to produce even a modest charge.

The system, which could be built into a

smartphone case, works by analyzing what parts of a phone's outgoing signal aren't reaching a cell tower or Wi-Fi router – given that phones typically transmit in all directions at once in order to reach the closest tower, wherever it is, a large percentage of their signal is often wasted.

That "unused" radio signal, which is essentially a high-frequency form of alternating current, is then converted to DC and used to charge the battery. As a result, not only does the battery last longer, but there's no loss in data transmission or sound quality.

The technology is being developed through spin-off company Nikola Labs, and a crowdfunding effort is being planned to help finance production. It is estimated that the initial product, which may end up taking the form of a stick-on phone skin, will cost around US\$100. The researchers would also like to find an industrial partner that could manufacture the technology directly into new phones.

## AGM 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015!

Ummm? Just replaced the battery cells in my door bell chime, they had lasted about a year.

Thing is, normerly the chimer takes three C size cells. Last time I didn't have any, (they come in packs of two or four, not three!) and as I have packs and packs of AAs, I jammed three of those suckers into it!

The AAs lasted as long as the Cs did, well longer in one case, got only six months out of one set of Cs!.

I've dated the cell changes on all my clocks for quite a few years now with my trusty labeller. All my clocks run for about two years on a single AA!

From: Thomson Bagley Auctions Whangarei,  
E-mail: paula@thomsonbagley.co.nz,

An avid Ham Radio operator is offering his whole Ham Radio HF collection for auction. Includes:

Icom 745 Transceiver with box and manual etc.

Mains Power supply for above PS2

HMM Antenna tuning unit

Grid drip oscillator

Baluns x 2

Noise bridge

Sundry wires and connectors including mobile cable to 745

HF mobile antenna in 2 parts

two reels of antenna wire.

We will take absentee bids from anywhere in NZ.

## Pattern of Contact Padding Prompts Disqualifications, CQ Review of All Past Contest Logs

Source; <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/pattern-of-contact-padding-prompts-disqualifications-cq-review-of-all-past-contest-logs>

2015/06/25

The CQ World Wide Contest Committee said this week that it plans to review all past contest logs, after its investigation revealed a pattern of routine QSO padding on the part of one top-scoring CQ World Wide Contest operator. This follows in the wake of the disqualifications of some two dozen 2014 CQ WW SSB contest operators in April, and another 30 contestants in the 2014 CQ WW CW event. Among the latter group of DQs was the TO7A entry of Dmitry V. Stashuk, UT5UGR, of Kiev, Ukraine, for unclaimed use of assistance. TO7A had claimed the top Single-Operator, High Power score.

“During the public discussion around this disqualification, a section of the log on 160 meters was pointed out as being suspicious,” the committee said. “Further checking revealed a run of 47 QSOs that were added to the log when TO7A could not be detected on the air by RBN [Reverse Beacon Network] or SDR recordings. In total, as many as 123 QSOs representing 22 additional multipliers were padded into the log.” The CQ WW Contest Committee said the “particular pattern” of the suspicious contacts made it clear that they were added deliberately after the contest to fill in rest or break periods.

“Radiosport competition is built on a simple foundation — the expectation that all contacts are made over the air and correctly logged,” the committee said. “Since operations are performed from the privacy of our stations and without supervision, we all trust that everyone is playing by the same rules.”

The contest committee subsequently decided to dig more deeply into past contest logs submitted by UT5UGR, many of them competitive entries, including one for a record

continental score, and it uncovered evidence of log padding going back to 2008, when UT5UGR placed third in the world in the Single-Operator, High Power category from V31WA in the CQ WW CW.

As a result, CQ has disqualified UT5UGR's entries in which they detected log padding and removed them from the official score database. In addition, any entry into a CQ-sponsored contest until July 2020 in which UT5UGR is the operator or listed as a participant will be reclassified as a check log.

UT5UGR's entries as TO7A into the 2009 and 2010 in the CQ WW SSB, and his 2011 and 2014 CQ WW 160 Meter Contest SSB entries under his own call sign have been disqualified. In addition to his 2008 V31WA CQ WW SSB entry from 2008, CQ also disallowed UT5UGR's TO7A 2014 CQ WW SSB and CW entries, as well as his TO7A entries in the CQ WW CW events in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

“This violation of the trust that underlies radiosport competition cannot be ignored,” CQ said. The CQ WW Contest Committee has announced that new log checking processes are being developed to improve the detection of log padding. “We intend to test these methods against all submitted logs from 2011-2014. If other entries are found to have added unverifiable QSOs, we will address them on a case by case basis,” CQ said.

“The CQ World Wide Contest Committee is committed to protecting the integrity of the competition as best as we can,” the CQ post said, adding that it hoped the contesting community would do the same.

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## Amateur Radio Newsline Co-Founder, Editor Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, SK

Source; <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-newsline-co-founder-editor-bill-pasternak-wa6itf-sk>

2015/06/12



A well-known voice in the Amateur Radio news media has gone silent. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, of Santa Clarita, California, died June 11 following a period of ill health. He was 73. Pasternak was co-founder (with Jim Hendershot, WA6VQP) of Amateur Radio Newsline™ (formerly The Westlink Report) ham radio news web-cast and a frequent presence at Amateur Radio conventions. Pasternak served as Newsline's managing editor and occasional newscaster for the program. Even while hospitalized earlier this year, he kept his ear to the ground for news from the Amateur Radio community, so he could pass it along to those who had taken over Newsline during his illness — discovered after he broke two ribs in a fall. ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, got acquainted with Pasternak at the Albuquerque hamfest and in 1997 was named Newsline's "Young Ham of the Year" (YHOTY).

"An incredible man, ham, and one of Amateur Radio's too-few giants, who woke up every day to make the hobby better for everyone, especially its legacy — youth," Milesosky said. "I've enjoyed the energy he put into keeping hams informed via Newsline, and have been honoured to give back to his Newsline

Young Ham of the Year Award program, since being asked by him to sit on its judging panel well over a decade ago."

ARRL Public Relations Committee Chair Katie Allen, WY7YL, said Pasternak would be missed by those within and outside the Amateur Radio community. "He truly was one of the good ones," she remarked on Pasternak's Facebook page. "Thank you for sharing your light with us, Bill."

A Brooklyn, New York, native, Pasternak became a radio amateur in 1959 as WA2HVK and once was very active on 6 meters. "I love the hands-on approach to ham radio and built my very first transmitter using parts salvaged from an old Dumont television set," Pasternak recounted in an on-line biography. "It was a modification of a design by Bill Orr, W6SAI, published in his famous Novice and Technician Handbook. A crystal-controlled, low-power 6 meter AM transmitter that doubled in the final, was screen grid modulated, and put out almost no output power."

He eventually got into broadcasting and made his career in television engineering and production. He retired as a broadcast engineer with KTTV in Los Angeles in 2012 but continued as a broadcasting consultant.

Pasternak was the spark plug behind the all-volunteer Amateur Radio Newsline bulletin — which was relayed on repeaters around the US and elsewhere — as well as the creator and administrator of the annual YHOTY. He was the author of three books and served as a writer/producer on several educational films and videos, including the award-winning "Amateur Radio Today." In earlier years, he wrote the "Looking West" column for 73 Amateur Radio Today Magazine for 26 years and penned a "VHF, FM and Repeater" column for WorldRadio. He also contributed to

broadcast trade publications as well as to CQ.

In addition to the ARRL, Pasternak belonged to the Radio Club of America and the Quarter Century Wireless Association. He also enjoyed flying, including stunts getting on the air from thousands of feet up.

He was the only person ever chosen to receive the Dayton Hamvention Special Achievement Award (1981) and Radio Amateur of the Year Award (1989). In 1995, the League presented him with an ARRL National Certificate of Merit in recognition of his contributions to the "furtherance of the goals of the Amateur Radio Service."

Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Sharon, KD6EPW.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, remarked, "I wonder how you measure a person's success in life. Some would say that you measure an individual by the amount of wealth they've acquired. I would say that the true measure of value of an individual is by the amount lives they've touched. If that is the case, then Bill died a very wealthy man."

The future of the Amateur Radio Newline broadcast, out of production since its May 22 edition, has not been determined, although an appeal for volunteers was issued in late May. Before he died, however, Pasternak said he was determined that Newline would name a Young Ham of the Year for 2015.

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## No Antennas Allowed? No Problem... Use a Flag Pole!

You hear it all the time from the myriad suburban dwelling hams: "My darn Home Owners Association won't allow antennas or I'd have a big old aluminium farm up in the air!" The HOA. The restrictions. The covenants. Curses!



Do not fret. First, you don't need a "big old aluminium farm" to make fun and reliable contacts around the globe on the HF bands. Second, there's more than one way to skin the covenant cat! One potential solution, among many, is a flag pole vertical antenna. Yep, it's a flag pole. It's an antenna. It's a flag pole antenna, and it complies with most neighbourhood restrictions. Further, no one has to be wise to the fact that your attractive new flag pole sometimes radiates and receives RF while Old Glory is flapping in the breeze.

Granted, every antenna is a compromise and a flag pole antenna is no exception. But if you have no giant trees in which to string up a

stealthy wire dipole and if you can't quite camouflage that 30 foot (10metre) wide 20-metre Yagi as a new age yard sculpture, the flag pole vertical may be an upstanding choice for your HF station. Just be prepared for a little work to get it installed and anticipate that you're probably going to have to use a high-end antenna tuner on some of the bands on which it claims to operate. Review that "compromise" statement above one more time.

My good friend Jürg, KDØRVG, is a recent graduate of our local radio club's Technician License Class, and he was studying hard for the General License exam when he purchased a multi-band radio. He lives in a very nice but stringently restricted neighbourhood on a beautiful hilltop location that's sure to provide magnificent RF propagation... if an antenna could actually be positioned there. Jürg's primary amateur radio desire was to make contacts into Europe, especially near his former home region of Switzerland. After considering the lack of proper arboreal masts on his lot he decided to try a flag pole HF antenna. I was enthused to assist him! I had never installed one of these stealthy, covert flag pole thingies. Should be a fun project!



See YouTube video of this project!

[https://youtu.be/zXb\\_BPMdedc](https://youtu.be/zXb_BPMdedc)

Antenna or not, a proper flag pole requires a sound base. Be prepared to pour some cement, or have some poured for you, in which to anchor the flag pole mast. See the accompanying video to get the gist of this operation, and attend particularly to the anchor bolt template and levelling tasks. The last thing you want is a leaning flag pole cemented into your yard!

Most vertical antennas need a good ground plane, and this turned out to be the biggest chore. Jürg laid 32 radial wires in the earth extending from the base of the flag pole. We needed a pick axe to break into the hard, rocky ground around the antenna, and each radial was about 25 feet (7.6 metres) long. If you're keeping score, 32 radials x 25 feet = 800 feet (244 metres) of pick axe fun. Fortunately, the ground radials need be placed only slightly under the earth. In fact, placing them more than an inch or two underground may reduce the ground plane effectiveness, so keep it shallow. After several hours of trenching and covering wires under the hot sun, we called it a day.

But Jürg promised he would come back and finish the job, and I joined him again for a round of soldering action. He created a wire ring around the base of the antenna to which he soldered the 32 radial wires of the ground plane. Then he soldered one more wire onto the ring and coupled it to the ground side of the antenna radiator's matching transformer/connection box. With the difficult work done, he connected the already-run-and-buried coaxial feed-line cable to the antenna feed-point and was ready to radiate!

A quick check of the SWR across the bands with an antenna analyser indicated the antenna was working as advertised. We fired up Jürg's new Kenwood rig. He was still a technician at the time, so I served as control operator on the 20-metre band using our club call sign. As luck

would have it, the Worked All Europe DX Radio Contest was ongoing, and there were tons of European stations on the air. We tuned up a likely prospective station that was running a pile up and Jürg gave out a call!

Would Jürg make his first-ever HF contact on his new multi-band transceiver and vertical flag pole antenna?

Would Jürg's very first HF contact be back to his old European home?

Would the flag pole antenna even work properly?

Would Jürg upgrade to General so he can work all the bands his flag pole might offer?

Well, you'll just have to check out the video to answer those questions and to see if this story has a happy ending. But be aware that there are several flag pole antenna commercial vendors to select from. Study their products and make an informed decision. Get on-line and check out the ham reviews for the products, and talk to someone who has installed and used the antenna if possible. Call up the company and ask them details about their product and its installation.

Then give it a shot and get on the air! Don't let the neighbourhood HOA get you down and put your HF operations in the dirt. There's more than one way to get around those restrictions, and a flag pole antenna just may be the best bet for your station situation. 73!

~ Stu, WØSTU

**Stu Turner**

*Used with thanks. Source;*

<http://www.hamradioschool.com/t3a08-skip-signal-fade/>



## The Back Info Page

(Links are "clickable" in the PDF version)

### The Internet:

The ZL2JA Webpage:

<http://zl2ja.org.nz/>

The ZL2JA Photo Gallery:

<http://zl2ja.org.nz/photos/>

Listen to the New Zealand National System (Live-ish):

<http://zl2ja.org.nz/listen/>

The Wanganui Award:

<http://zl2ja.org.nz/award/>

ZL2JA on Youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ZL2JA>

NZART (NZ's National AR Organising Body):

<http://nzart.org.nz>

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### Branch Repeaters:

"Wanganui 690"

Output 146.900MHz, In -600kHz

"Wanganui National System 9875"

Output 439.875MHz, In -5Mhz

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