

HAMLARKS

Christchurch Amateur Radio Club



April 2017

Branch 05 Club re-occurring events

MAIN BRANCH MEETING First Wednesday of the month 7.30pm, except January. *All visitors welcome.* At 5 Idris Road, Fendalton.

Branch 05 Website www.chchhamradio.org.nz

ACTIVITIES and STUDY NIGHT Every Tuesday 7:30 pm at 5 Idris Road, Fendalton.
All visitors welcome.

DAYTIME MEETING (Branch05)

Meet third Thursday of month, 1 pm at Branch05 clubrooms.

All visitors welcome.

COMMITTEE MEETING 1st Monday after branch meeting 7.30 pm

At 5 Idris Road, Fendalton

AREC MEETINGS Normally the 2nd Wednesday of the month 7.30 pm. At 5 Idris Road, Fendalton

DEADLINE FOR HAMLARKS COPY 11 days before the main branch meeting.

WEEKLY CLUB VHF NET Every Sunday 8:00 pm on 145.625 MHz repeater if available, otherwise 147.050 MHz repeater.

OFFICIAL NZART BROADCAST Last Sunday of the month 8:00 pm on 147.050 MHz repeater.

CW PRACTICE

Boyd ZL3LE every Tuesday at 8 pm. 3550 kHz. Listen in your shack or come along to Branch 05 clubrooms.

Views expressed in "Hamlarks" are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee of the Christchurch Amateur Radio Club. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles submitted for publication for reasons of clarity or length. No part of Hamlarks may be reproduced without the express consent of the Editor.

Programme for next branch meeting

Wednesday 5th April

Distinguished Professor Jack Copeland from the University of Canterbury
will talk to us about

'Alan Turing and the curious birth of Artificial Intelligence.'

Secretary Rory's Ramblings - ZL3HB

Another successful Radiotek today apart from an issue with the FM boards that sort of worked but not properly. Kelvin has found an issue with wrong components in a drawer so need to watch that!

Next one is set for 14th May.

HamCram coming up on 18/19th March so if you know of anyone interested get them to hop on the Ham Radio bus.

Bit of an exciting week on the hills wasn't it!! Not very nice & quite scary how easily it can all get out of control. We were very lucky with Marleys being missed weren't we.

NS come back up today but not 705 so we need to get through the cordon at some point to see what gives. Have managed to log onto the engineering link to Marleys but no response from 705 so might need to come down for servicing. Didn't like a power glitch?? Batteries got a hammering despite the low voltage cutouts so some testing will need to be done.

At least 725 seems to be performing well and with 11 repeaters in the area we are rather well served anyway.

And guess what. It's sub time again!! Hate to keep reminding you but we have only had about 55 of you paying so far so you need to get a wriggle on. Remember you only have until the end of March now before the higher sub of \$35/45 cuts in. At \$25 surely it isn't a cost issue!! So PLEASE go online and do the deed to keep this great club running.

Tuesday night s are humming with up to 35+ attending so worth a trip down to join the fun.

See you in 10 days or so.

Rory

Hamads**WANTED**

Old NZ Magazines needed. I am trying to complete a collection of NZ's own electronics magazine. This was Radio and Electronics, later Radio and Electrical review, later Radio, Electronics and Communications. I am unsure of when it ceased publication, somewhere in the 1973's, I think.

I would appreciate any spare, unwanted, copies to fill up the missing gaps. Needed are: Volume 4, no. 1, April 1949; Vol.4, no.3, May 1949.

The magazines I have on hand for July 1949-December 1949, are in very poor condition and could be replaced if any unwanted copies are miraculously found.

Jan 1952; December 1957; October 1960; April, May, November, December, 1962; Jan-April and June-Sept., November and December, 1963; Jan-April, June, August, 1964; Feb, July, Sept, November, 1969; March, November, December, 1970. April onwards, 1973. Does anyone know when publication ceased?

Many thanks.

Ross ZL3TFK, weir.rd@xtra.co.nz

From the Hamlarks editor

Autumn greetings from the old Hamlarks desk. I hope you are all getting ready for a cosy winter of ham operating or radio building. Some of you may know that I am getting ready for neither, my wife and I are going away on Big OE number four, and will be away until December this year. Our plans are a little loose still, but we will be in central America for two months and Europe for five months. Actually I will be trying to do some hamming, I will have a handheld with IRPL, so you may hear a call from some distant place that has reciprocal arrangements.

I am very grateful to John ZL3IB for taking over this Hamlarks chair for a few months; as the ex-editor of Break In and other news letters, I expect the change will be refreshing and appealing. Good luck John, and thanks again. See you in December (unless I find a place I cannot leave!)

Kelvin ZL3KB

From the Acting Editor

Hamlarks editor Kelvin ZL3KB will be overseas until the end of the year and I have been "volunteered" to stand in for him. So if you have copy, hamads, etc for Hamlarks please send it directly to me at john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz or phone 03-3489 084.

Thanks & 73

John Walker ZL3IB

Summits On The Air (SOTA)

Andrew has done an outstanding job, writing up his SOTA mission.

See <https://zl3cc.wordpress.com/2017/01/08/castle-hill-peak/>

Mike ZL3TMB



**Payment Due -
Reminder**

**NZART Branch 05
Subscription for 2017**

Call _____ Name _____

Single Membership

\$25 if paid by 31st March \$35 if paid after 31st March 2017

Family Membership

Junior \$15

\$35 if paid by 31st March \$45 if paid after 31st March 2017

Our Club Bank Account number is: 030826 0145249 00

If you pay by internet banking, please make sure that you use your **Call Sign** as the transaction **reference number** so that our treasurer can identify you.

If you are posting your Subscription, please send to:

**Christchurch Amateur Radio Club
P.O.Box 1733,
Christchurch.**

NZART HF Contests April – July 2017

Wayne, ZL2AYB, plans to use the Branch 05 facilities to participate in three NZART HF contests. If you do not have an HF station or are not already involved in contests this is an opportunity for interested club

members. Although they are all single operator contests, you are invited to join Wayne at the club rooms to assist with the log keeping for some or all of the following events (or part thereof). There are CW components but you do not have to be a CW expert or even have done any CW at all.

If you have any questions or intend to join Wayne please contact him beforehand at fisher.well@xtra.co.nz.

1. Thelma Souper Memorial

When: Saturday 1 April and Sunday 2 April

Time: 1900 to 2100 each evening

Mode: SSB

2. Sangster Shield

When: Saturday 20 May and Sunday 21 May

Time: 2000 to 2300 each evening

Mode: CW

3. Memorial

When: Saturday 1 July and Sunday 2 July

Time: 2000 to 2300 each evening

Mode: SSB & CW (Field Day format)

Hamcram at Branch05

On the 18th and 19th of March 2017, Branch05 carried out its fourth HamCram event at the Idris Road clubrooms. This time we had eight candidates for the course, and I am glad to say three were female, which helps to correct the gender balance a little.

In the end we had seven passes on the Sunday, and the eighth is coming back very soon to retake the test. Up to now, we have had 100% success overall.

On the day Rory ZL3HB was the chief organiser, while in the teaching squad we had Richard ZL4FZ, Dave ZL3FJ, Don ZL3DMC, Mike ZL3MWD and Kelvin ZL3KB. Now having gone to University, Aidan's (3APB) place was ably taken up by Dave 3FJ. The examination team descended upon us on Sunday, consisting of Des ZL3AK, Rob ZL3RX and Ross ZL3TFK. A special thanks go to Mike for the snacks and refreshments at every break.

The next HamCram will be in July, and places are filling fast.

Crowbar protection circuit

The crowbar was unharmed !

Stolen equipment. Keep a look out!

Stolen PA speakers

I would appreciate members watching out for four PA horn speakers stolen from the Christchurch Show Grounds. These are Toa, 600 mm diameter, 630mm from flare rim to driver rear, and are coloured a well-faded light grey shade. The drivers are round, grey plastic, and have that special Toa 4-pin plug at the rear, where you rotate the plug to set the 100v line power you want. They are being stolen in Auckland, too, and no one can work out why.... Thanks.

Ross ZL3TFK, weir.rd@xtra.co.nz.

Internet Sites of Radio Interest.

Baofeng handy talkie meets GNU radio. Al Williams WD5GNR writes on Hackaday about the work of Bastian Blössl DF1BBL in sending data packets with a \$30 Baofeng HT. Bastian was working on a traffic light project and wanted to send an RF signal when the light changes. He realized the Baofeng radio could provide a cheap and cheerful solution. He only needed a way to have the PC generate an audio signal to feed the radio. His answer was to design a UDP packet to audio flow graph in GNU Radio. GNU Radio then feeds the Baofeng. The radio's built-in VOX function handles transmit switching. Read the article and watch the video at <http://hackaday.com/2017/02/11/baofeng-handly-talkie-meets-gnu-radio/>

All About Circuits purchased a \$25 Baofeng UV-5R dual-band amateur radio HT to take apart and look inside. Due to the reasonable price and easy availability on eBay, the Baofeng transceivers have proved very popular with radio amateurs. The article and video showing the teardown can be seen at: <https://www.allaboutcircuits.com/news/teardown-tuesday-baofeng-amateur-radio-transceiver/> Also, there is a Guide to Using the Baofeng UV-5R: at <http://www.essexham.co.uk/news/guide-to-using-the-baofeng-uv-5r.html>.

Jock White Field Day 2017 ZL3KB

Jock White Field Day

Some say there are three certainties in life; Death, Taxes and Jock White Field Day. February came around yet again and the team cobbled the gear together for the weekend exercise.

Due to a SAREX we were one down on the number of AREC vans available, so we chose to have both stations in under canvas; well, it is a FIELD day after all.



Antennas were the usual dipoles on 80 m and 40 m, but this year we hoisted the 80 m antenna up a little higher on a cherry picker. We also tried an 80 m turnstile and evaluated its performance on the northern and southern circuits. I think we could see a slight improvement when talking to our ZL4 friends. Also the 80 m dipole was moved away from the corner of the field where in previous years we experienced mysterious impedance tuning problems.

Lastly, we dragged ourselves into the 21st century and used computer logging instead of quill and parchment, with the obvious advantages in the post field day score processing.

For once the Christchurch weather was not stunning. Even a little rain fell on the Sunday morning, causing the 40 m station equipment to suffer a stream of drips from the roof. However, it could not stop the stream of contacts, and propagation to the North Island continued to be better than average (rain enhancement?). By stealing their best operator, I am sure we have beaten ZL2QF this year!

A good weekend was had by the team, Richard 4FZ, Wayne 2AYB , Andy 3KKW, Andrew 3AJT, Rob 3RX, Rory 3HB, Geoff 3PX and myself 3KB.

Minutes of the Branch 05 meeting**Christchurch Amateur Radio club meeting 1st March 2017**

Apologies ZL3DO, ZL3MJS. Ian ZL3TAO moved to accept. Carried.

Visitors Liz ZL3LIZ, ZL3JA Hans, Tony ??

Minutes of Feb meeting moved to accept by Rory ZL3HB, seconded Keith ZL3AHL. Carried.

Correspondence Ragchew & Q-bit

Reports AREC Busy with a mini SAREX

SAR rerun for old event

Endurance horse event coming weekend 4/5th

Field Day went well. Await results nationally

Police national SAR training in May

Repeaters 705 almost went up in flames from Port Hills fire but spared by 10 m.

705 lost power and reciter died but has been replaced & all up & running.

705 antenna changed to digi dipole

Need to clean up the site of growth and old cables etc.

Richard ZL4FZ then talked about Marleys interference issues and warned members a substantial investment in antennas etc will be required. Up to \$5000.

QSL Bureau No new cards

Tuesday night Still going strong with up to 35 attending.

Band report 80/40 on Field Day variable but 40 m evening DX OK

General Business Members reminded subs due by end of March – not April.

Garage all done except for Durasteel PS4 still not done for council Field day results. Richard ZL4FZ says 216 837 points which should show well with multipliers.

Members reminded to use the trading table as doing well.

Meeting closed at 2015 hr

Mark ZL3JVX then gave an interesting talk & demo of aerials, in particular rubber duckies, on the analyser. An eye opener!

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