

June 2017

INTERFACE



MONTHLY BULLETIN

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

CLUB CALENDAR

General Meeting; 8 June, EOC, 19.30hrs

Social Group; 15 June, 12.00hrs - The Vines

Committee Meeting; 22 June, 07.30hrs - EOC



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BRANCH 22 NOTICES

1. **NZART AGM**, Rotorua2-4 June
2. **Mid Winter Lunch**, Wairau River Wines16 July

VHF Mondays 1930 hrs
146.950MHz, 145.600MHz,
147.225MHz

Net Controller; Ken Hynds ZL2KHZ

VHF - USB Net Wednesdays 1930
144.150MHz

MID WINTER LUNCH

I have only received one RSVP so far (an apology) but have just been told some Branch 26 members plan to join us too.

Please can we have as many as possible attend as we have something special planned so the more members there on the day, the better.

DATE: 16th July

TIME: 12 noon (come earlier for a pre-lunch drink or chat by the fire)

PLACE: Wairau River Wines Restaurant
11 Rapaura Rd (cnr Rapaura Rd & SH6)



RSVP to Simpsons **BEFORE 10 July**
grant@simtronics.co.nz or 578 9390
for catering purposes. Thank you.



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB GENERAL MEETING EOC
11 May 2017 at 19:35 Hours

Present: Grant Simpson (Chair), Don Laing (Secretary), Ken Hynds (Treasurer), Chris Grant, Bill Cousins, Don Jamieson, Paul Rennie, Ron Harris, Gerard Van Antwerpen, Ken Menzies, Kevin Berg, Kevin Berg Jr., Kaye Hannagan, Rob Carter, Nelson Bateman, Stuart Watchman, Lara Mdntyre

Apologies: Helen Harris, Ian Conway, Wayne Parker

Correspondence: Inward – email re equipment for sale.

Outward – None

Finance: Payment for Grape Ride is still pending. Awaiting their remittance

National Conference Remits

13 NZART members present

Remit No 1 :Accepted by all

Remit No 2 :Amendment to be proposed

Change wording "previous year that the election is to be held"
to

"prior to the year in which the election is to be held" ie: original wording

Remit No 3 :Not accepted

Agreed by all that the delegates attending have the approval to vote on behalf of Branch 22 if required.

REPORTS:

Repeaters: All operating OK. Nothing to report.

SAR/AREC: To assist Christchurch group with Dip Flat SAR exercise next week

Brayshaw Park:

- Link rearranged with improved performance.
- External earthing to be connected to internal hut earth system
- Rotor control system has been bench tested. To be installed in hut, calibrated and operation tested.
- Planning to relocate radio equipment back into hut next weekend. **GS**
- Wood Workers Guild requested internet access which has been provided at no cost to us. Also has been offered to the Vintage Car Club. These are only voluntary provisions.
- Access will be for all Branch 22 members. Others will need to apply for special access permission.
- Booking procedure to be discussed at next Committee meeting. Interested members welcome to attend.
- Bill Cousins presently has access keys for gate & building. Gate is usually open during daytime.

General Business:

Jock White Field Day - Tent replacement. Still to be considered by committee.

St Clair – 13 May 2017 - Meeting with volunteers after GM.

CG/SW

Mountain Bike Ride - 21 May 2017. Rob Carter to organise

Meeting closed: 20:25



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING
25 May 2017 at 19:35 Hours

Present: Grant Simpson (Chair), Don Laing, Ken Hynds, Ken Menzies, Paul Rennie, Rob Carter, Stuart Watchman

Apologies: None

Correspondence:

Inward: NZART Branch Circular
NZART Break-In
Bank Statement
Letter from David Clode requesting assistance

Outward: None

Finance: Grape Ride payment being progressed

SW

Repeater Report: Nothing to report

SAR Report: Dip Flat exercise successfully concluded

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Brayshaw Hut:

Equipment relocated into hut
Still issue with rotator remote control
Earthing and cabling tidy up still to be completed
Sub-committee to be setup from interested persons and chaired by Bill Cousins to propose the operating policy & procedures

GS/PR/ALL

BC

National Conference:

Proposed amendment to Remit 2 forwarded to Debbie at NZART for inclusion into NZART conference agenda.

Mountain Bike Ride:

Event went well with thanks to those who made themselves available.

St Clair:

Issue with programming hand-held radios resolved but an alternative easier programme if available would be preferred.
Repeater fault is suspected to be the filters out of tune but still to be checked.

SW

Secretary Absence:

Secretary will be absent for 3 months from late July.
Someone needs to be seconded to enable timely handing over of records plus the MDC submission that may arise in August.

Club Keys:

Grant Simpson handed over his club keys.
Brayshaw Park access & hut keys are with Bill Cousins. Remainder are with Don Laing.

Upcoming Events:

Midwinter Dinner - midday, 16 July, Wairau River Wine Restaurant (corner SH6/Rapaura Road)

Meeting Closed: 20:03

Bird pics taken by Paul Rennie during recent SAREX



SAREX REPORT from Paul Rennie, ZK2EO (photos by Paul as well)

Some months ago Richard Smart, Section Leader, contacted me to see if I could provide 2 operators for the upcoming Police SAREX to be held at Dip Flat for the week 12 - 19 May. He was asked by the Police Sergeant in Christchurch if AREC would supply communications both VHF and HF. Myself and Harry Stephens left Blenheim on the Friday to head for Dip Flat, with Harry driving my Toyota Surf and me driving our comms vehicle. We met up with Richard Smart and Steve Davis, who were travelling in their comms bus, and Jim Nelson who arrived in his own vehicle from Methven. On arrival we set up camp and unloaded the equipment from all vehicles.



Saturday saw Jim and myself head up to the skifield and try VHF comms back to base using the DOC repeater on Beeby's Knob. It was not successful so back to camp to assist in setting up HF antennas for 3023, 5680. I had also arranged for the IP STAR unit to be delivered to the Blenheim Police station so some time was spent on setting up that unit. Richard and Steve were also busy setting up another satellite link for emails which worked very well. Being in a narrow valley, the satellites proved very elusive for the IP Star to function.



On Saturday all the teams were driven to the skifield to carry out a day tramp along the St Arnaud ridge, to be picked up back at Lake Rotoiti. Once on the top, VHF was used successfully.

On Sunday, Jim and I were tasked to take 2 VHF repeaters to already plotted sites and test them back to base. They were to be used by the teams in the upcoming 3 day exercise starting on Tuesday, but they probably followed our wheel tracks.

Monday was spent driving around looking for a very quiet HF site to set up our comms vehicle as a forward base. A site by the skifield gate proved very successful. Our comms vehicle was then set up with HF dipoles at right angles to each other and VHF back to base was to be our link.

Tuesday came with a 0600 start for breakfast then Harry, Jim and I moved on up to the forward base site ready for the reports from the search teams. This was our task for the next 3 days.

Richard and Steve were receiving messages from all the teams via VHF, until they were out of repeater range, then they changed to HF. We received all the messages and then relayed them to base, via a VHF simplex link, as we were only 5 minutes drive away.

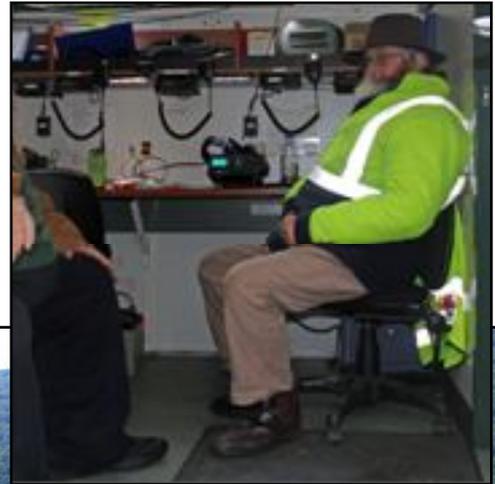
All the messages received by base were forwarded onto the IMT team who were setup in the main building via a microwave link using the SAR track programme. This is a system whereby ALL messages are sent by laptop and projected onto a very large white screen so the IMT team can view ALL the teams' activities and exact locations. This is proving to be a great system.

The 6 teams that were in the bush, and with the "lost" parties found late on Wednesday, were to stay out on Wednesday night and start heading back to their pickup points on Thursday. They were then transported back to base for a welcome HOT shower and a meal, (non dehydrated) which I am sure they all enjoyed as the food all week was exceptional and well prepared by army chefs.

As we had no contact with home, Sunday night saw Harry and I drive out to contact our homes and on return, while negotiating a corner, came across 3 red deer yearlings who decided to run in front of the vehicle for about 100 metres, nice to see.



Once all teams were back at base it was decided to dismantle all HF antennas and associated equipment and start packing away, with Harry and I leaving Dip Flat mid afternoon to travel back home after a very successful week. It was a good learning experience for both of us and will probably be repeated next year.



CONFERENCE 2017, ROTORUA, REPORT from Grant Simpson, ZL2BK

This year conference was held at the Sudima Hotel in Rotorua. The venue provided facilities for the conference as well as the meals and accommodation on the one site.

The AGM started with a welcome and then the group photo. Various awards were presented to the amateur of the year, highest exam score for young amateur, various best Break In articles etc.

The Break In editor explained why the Call Book was done in CD format and the difficulties of producing the printed copy. The costs of producing a printed copy with a lot of added content would mean a large increase in price per copy too. Various electronic options are also being investigated but all have their good and bad points. To distribute the Call Book by USB drive would cost over \$4000.00 just for the drives themselves. Then there is the cost of writing the data to all those drives and postage too.

An interesting presentation of the NZART.org website and its design was given. A lot of work has gone into this with still a lot of ongoing work to get all the information and data in a user friendly form.

The remits were dealt with and all went the way we expected with 1 and 2 passed. The amendment the we put forward to tidy the wording of remit 2 was passed before that remit was put to the vote. Remit 3 was rejected.

The AREC forum was held after the AGM and proved to be very interesting and informative. Plenty of information on the implementation of the DRM systems along with the work being done to liaise with the various organisations that are involved with emergency communications. The use of HF has been shown to still be a very valuable resource in emergencies. Enhancements such as HF data for text messages and ALE (Automatic Link Establishment) can make operation much more reliable. AREC has a number of HF frequencies available, some outside the Ham bands, that can be used but only with approved equipment. No ham gear has the capability anyway.

The HF along with the VHF and UHF digital and analogue systems will be able to provide a valuable service in the future. All these systems will mean all emergency services will be able to work with each other using the same radios (on appropriate frequencies) anywhere in the country without the need for re-programming.

On Sunday the various forums were presented. I attended a presentation by Brian Heywood, ZL1IE, about the design and construction of his HF mast with rotatable HF antenna covering from 80 through to 10 metres. He described the engineering required to build a telescopic mast to support this antenna in the conditions on his property. Very interesting how the wind conditions and surrounding ground contours affect the requirements. Of much interest though was the problems with gaining consents to be able to do this. He is in Tauranga and a good insight into the local environmental planning problems was given which was very interesting as we are involved with this in Marlborough.



Next I sat in on a talk by Mark Gooding, ZL2UFI, on D-Star and all the useful developments that are ongoing with this mode. He described the differences with the other digital modes such as DRM, P25 etc. and their suitability to the different users.

The ALO, Don Wallace, ZL2TLL, then gave a very well attended talk on what happens when attending the various international regulatory conferences. He explained what was happening with the possible allocation for amateur use of the 5MHz frequencies, 220MHz and 78GHz for example.

After lunch, another forum was convened for further discussion of the AREC involvement with the DRM systems for use by various services such as CD, LandSAR, Surf lifesaving etc. More discussion of SART rack

and it's use as well took quite some time along with a demonstration of what it can do.

This took until afternoon tea break and was followed with more in depth demonstration of the DMR radios and how they are programmed. This is quite a complex task as there is so much that can be done by these very complex radios. However this results in radios that are able to be used by any operator on any of the services no matter where the radio is from. They are all set up with identical user profiles that can only be changed using the appropriate software. They can not be changed by the user to ensure interoperability at all times.

There were other forums as well but you can't go to everything.

Having the whole conference in the Sudima Hotel meant the conference goers could stay there as well. All meals were also in the hotel

Caryl and I found the accommodation to be comfortable and warm with a comfortable bed. Food was good and well presented too so we had nothing to complain about. The organisers did a good job and we heard no complaints from anyone. There's probably a few things that needed fixing but we saw no signs of that either.

Next year the NZART Conference will be in Mosgiel so put it on your calendar now.



Sudima Hotel



Room similar to ours



Sharon from ICOM

