

April 2017

# INTERFACE



MONTHLY BULLETIN

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

## CLUB CALENDAR

- General Meeting; 13 April. EOC, 19.30hrs
- Social Group; 20 April, 12.00hrs - The Vines
- Committee Meeting; 27 April. 07.30hrs - EOC



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## BRANCH 22 NOTICES

- 1. St Clair Half Marathon..... 13 May
- 2. Mountain Bike Ride..... 21 May
- 3. Mid Winter Lunch..... July

VHF Mondays 1930 hrs  
146.950MHz, 145.600MHz,  
147.225MHz  
**Net Controller; Ken Hynds ZL2KHZ**

VHF - USB Net Wednesdays 1930  
144.150MHz

### GUESS WHO WON THE INTERCLUB TROPHY FOR THE 3rd YEAR RUNNING?

Branch 22 once again, by a small margin mind you, won the interdub trophy against Branch 26. It was neck and neck until the last challenge! Well done to all participants and a great time was had by everyone, despite the rain.

Branch 26 President, Andrew Mackie, ZL2HZ presents Branch 22 President, Grant Simpson, ZL2BK with the Interdub Trophy (again)



**MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 85th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
EOC 09 March 2017, 19:30**

**Present:** Grant Simpson (Chair), Don Laing (Secretary), Ken Hynds (Treasurer), Tony Whitaker Chris Grant, Bill Cousins, Don Jamieson, Ian Conway, Paul Rennie, Ron Harris, Wayne Parker, Gerard Van Antwerpen, Ken Menzies, Liliana (Guest), Rob Carpenter, Kevin Berg, Lara McIntyre, Stuart Watchman

**Apologies:** Kaye Hannagan, Rob Carter, Graham McKay, Chris Bryant, Roger Burdon

**Minutes of the 2016 AGM:** Accepted

**m.** Gerard Van Antwerpen **s.** Don Jamieson

**Matters arising:** nil

**Correspondence:** None Accepted

**m.** Ken Hynds **s.** Ken Menzies

**Reports:**

**Financial:** Balance sheet as in interface and asset list projected. Accepted:

**m.** Ken Hynds **s.** Paul Rennie

The following reports were published in the March Interface:

- QSL Manager
- President
- Exam Supervisors
- Social Group
- Repeaters
- AREC

Reports accepted



**m.** Gerard Van Antwerpen **s.** Wayne Parker

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Chris Grant retired from Committee, Don Jamieson volunteered.  
All accepted by general consensus

**President:** Grant Simpson

**Vice President:** Ken Menzies

**Secretary:** Don Laing

**Treasurer:** Ken Hynds

**Account reviewer:** Blenheim Accounting Services

**m.** Ken Hynds **s.** Chris Grant

**Committee:** Rob Carter, Stuart Watchman, Paul Rennie, Don Jamieson

**QSL Manager:** Bill Cousins

**Examination Supervisors:** John Neal & Bill Cousins

**Call Sign Trustees:** Ian Conway & Stuart Watchman

**Repeater Trustees:** Grant Simpson & Ken Menzies

**Morse examiner:** Ken Menzies

**Social Group Coordinator:** Chris Grant

**Librarian:** Gerard Van Antwerpen

**Interface Editor:** Grant advises that Caryl Simpson has agreed to continue

**Web Master:** Gerard Van Antwerpen

**AREC Section Leader:** Paul Rennie



**Jock White Field Day**  
Gerard & Stuart intent  
on their work  
(in tent, geddit?)

**All Jock White photos**  
**thanks to Don Laing**



**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Subscription for 2017/18:** to remain at \$20 individual \$25 family

**m.** Ian Conway **s.** Bill Cousins

**Meeting closed at 19:50**



**Jock White Field Day**  
Rob Carter offers support to Ian's  
truck during a break in proceedings



**Marlborough Amateur Radio Club General Meeting EOC  
09 March 2017 at 19:55 Hours**

**Present:** Grant Simpson (Chair), Don Laing (Secretary), Ken Hynds (Treasurer), Tony Whitaker, Chris Grant, Bill Cousins, Don Jamieson, Ian Conway, Paul Rennie, , Ron Harris, Wayne Parker, Gerard Van Antwerpen, Ken Menzies, Liliana (Guest), Rob Carpenter, Kevin Berg, Lara McIntyre, Stuart Watchman

**Apologies:** Kaye Hannagan, Rob Carter, Graham McKay, Chris Bryant, Roger Burdon

**Correspondence:** Inward – AGM advertisement invoice **KH**  
Outward – Thank you letter to Field Day Property Owner **DL**

**Finance:** Payment for Grape Ride pending plus outstanding Subs.

**REPORTS:**

**Repeaters;** All seem to be operating OK.

**Weld Cone;** Still no access but Police still assessing.

To negotiate with Marlborough Lines & Land Owner for relocation to Hollow Top. **GS**

Havelock - Kordia site not feasible and alternatives being investigated.

Kaikoura – Hardware is being prepared **GS / KM**

STSP – Battery dead which Grant S replaced with personal battery. Another battery to be obtained & installed.

**SAR / AREC:** Nothing to report

**Brayshaw Park:**

Kart Club site checked out OK. Kart Club have no objection to link installation.

Plan to carry out trial next week. **GS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Jock White Field Day** – Suggestion to replace tent as it is old & deteriorating. To be considered by Committee.

**Grape Ride** – Successfully completed

**Nelson Combined BBQ** - (11/03/17)

**Mountain Bike Ride** – 21 May 2017.

**St Clair** – May 2017.

**Meeting closed** 20:10

Sausage  
anyone? Rob  
at the BBQ



**MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**23 March 2017 at 19:35 Hours**

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

**Apologies:** Don Jamieson, Rob Carter

**Correspondence:** **Inward:** None      **Outward:** Grant application to "Blue Door"      **KH**

**Finance:**

Bills for PRS radio batteries presented  
Grape Ride to be invoiced & paid



**KH**  
**SW**

**Matters Arising:** None

**Repeater Reports:**

All are operational.

Weld Cone - vehicle access reported to be re-established but require Police authorisation.  
- Land Owner authorisation is still to be obtained for relocation to 'Hollow Top'.

**GS / RC**

Ned - Site working party to complete outstanding maintenance on 22 & 23 April. Required tools & material to be checked in meantime.

**PR / ALL**

Kaikoura - Reestablishment still to be determined

**SAR Report:**

Multi agency SAR exercise postponed and to be re-scheduled  
Dip Flat exercise in May for Police SAREX exercise for 4 days  
SAR requested to provide display at Omarka air show  
Representative for SARTRACK system touring area



**PR**

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Brayshaw Hut.**

Link to Kart Club has been working satisfactorily for several weeks.

Hut working party 29 & 30 April to lower and realign hut UHF antenna towards Kart Club.

HF transceiver remote control software is available from "remotehams.com". Log in to ZL2KS.

Presently transmit disabled until HF antenna sorted.

Rotator interface is being worked on at present. Rotator control supply is ac which causes interference.

Proposed that ac supply inverter is normally switched off and only initiated when rotator operation required.

**GS**  
**ALL**

**General Meeting Talk**

Demonstration of Brayshaw Park HF transceiver remote control and MARC repeater system.

**GS**

**Upcoming Events.**

Mountain Bike Ride – 21 May 2017.

St Clair – May 2017.

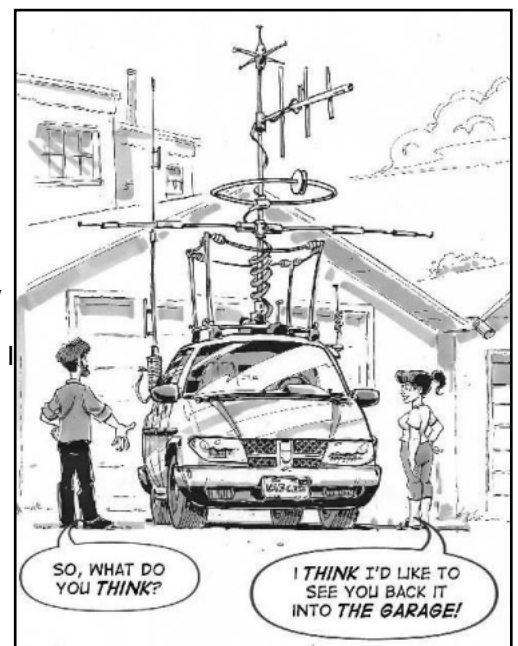


**Meeting Closed : 20:10**



These cartoons were sent by John Elvy with the comment, "Guess who I thought of when I saw these two pics?"

(I know for a fact Grant can't put the Kia in any of our garages due to the height of the aerials)





## TECHNICAL TALK FOR THURSDAY

Over the course of a year there are all sorts of talks arranged, some technical and some not. Often the technical subjects are not exactly Ham Radio but always interesting.

This Thursday meeting will be a talk on our remote HF station at Brayshaw Park and also an overview of our repeaters, where they are and how they are linked.

When you are travelling is there somewhere you would like to have the coverage improved?

There's sure to be many questions you might want answers to. Write them down now. We will try to give you the answers but no guarantees!

How do we get a broadband connection to the internet?



Why are our sites mostly solar powered?

What's still to be done to improve what we have so far?

How do I use the remote HF system?

What equipment do I need?

What will it cost me?



You can download the free software from:

[http://download.remotehams.com/download.php?dir=orb&file=RCForb\\_Client\\_0.8.6279.exe](http://download.remotehams.com/download.php?dir=orb&file=RCForb_Client_0.8.6279.exe)



## PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

It's not long to go before the NZART AGM in Rotorua over Queen's Birthday weekend. I know several have said they plan to attend and I myself have my accommodation and the ferry booked. Next month's meeting we will need to discuss the remits that are in this month's Break-In. Please read them and be prepared. There's plenty of time and only three to think about.

Do you have any technical topics you would like discussed at any future meetings? Any subject, preferably Ham Radio oriented but you never know, someone in the dub probably knows something about whatever you would like to know.

Perhaps you could give a talk on your past history, hobbies, work or whatever. We all see each other at these meetings but often know very little about what others in the room have done over the years and/or how they got interested in Ham Radio.

We have had talks from someone working in the North of Canada and another on the trials and tribulations of a top dressing pilot in the early days of that industry.

After a very busy time since Christmas with a number of successful events things are quieting down.

With winter coming on and the constructor's contest at the September meeting, you should get that project underway or completed and ready for entry.

Caryl and Helen are working on a mid-winter lunch, which will probably be held in July. The venue and date will be published as soon as possible so you will have plenty of time to make sure you can be there.



Measuring distance  
- Toss the Tait

## COMBINED BBQ AT CARLUKE

A good time was had by all, despite the wet weather. I think there were 11 from Blenheim and 8 from Nelson. First up, everyone was given a quiz sheet with words missing from well known sayings which they had to complete. For example, if it said 26 L of the A, the answer was 26 Letters of the Alphabet. Another was 12 M of the Y, being 12 Months of the Year. There was much laughter, interspersed with gnashing of teeth, before the answers were given. Each team had combined their individual answers before marking so the final tally of correct answers (out of 30) was Blenheim 28, Nelson 21. There was a bit of judicious hint dropping for both sides from me. If I helped one side then I made sure the other side got equal help so nobody could accuse me of bias - although it didn't stop them from doing so!

The next challenge was the Fox Hunt. Nelson's Andrew, ZL2HZ, set this up but they waited for a break in the light rain before venturing out. Just after they set out it started to rain a bit harder so as soon as the first three contestants said they had found the fox, the rest just gave up. Just as well as the fox's battery then died! Winner of the Fox Hunt was Blenheim as the three first finders were all from Branch 22.

We then sat down to a delicious lunch although we ended up with a lot of leftovers! There were beef patties, sausages, steak, bacon, and corn patties with a wide variety of salads - lettuce, pasta, rice and coleslaw to choose from. This was followed by dessert, which included such tasty treats as cheesecakes, cupcakes and a delicious mishmash of marshmallows, cream and meringues.

After lunch we played coax quoits. This consisted of several rings of varying sizes made from coax cable. Participants had to stand behind a line and throw the rings over a mag mount - stuck to an oven tray to stop it falling over. The larger rings were worth fewer points than the smaller rings. Final total - Nelson 2, Blenheim 1.

The next competition had everyone given a sheet of A4 paper. Each was instructed to make a paper aeroplane and the one whose plane flew the furthest was the winner. Best distance was Topsy's, 13.6m so Nelson won that round. This made the competition extra exciting as we had now won two competitions each so a tiebreaker was required.

As the rain had eased off again, we could play Toss The Tait so everyone grabbed coats and/or umbrellas and headed outside. Each team had 8 participants. Distances thrown were measured then added together so the team with the greatest total distance thrown was declared the winner. Blenheim's total was 108.3m to Nelson's 101.2m so Blenheim won that round and the Annual Combined Club Trophy for the 3rd year in a row!

Thanks to all those who participated, helped set up challenges, provided/cooked food, or anything else to make it such a fun day. **ALL BBQ PHOTOS KINDLY TAKEN & SUPPLIED BY JIM MEACHEN, ZL2BHF**



Sausage & bacon cooker extraordinaire, Topsy Scott



Toss the Tait



Toss the Tait

**Coax Quoits**  
(clockwise)  
Fay Daken,  
Stuart Watchman,  
Chris Grant,  
Tony Daken



We're going to win this year!

I hope so!

Yeah right!



Grant, cooker of the onions, steak & patties chats to Tony Whitaker