

April 2015

# INTERFACE

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

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## Club Calendar

- General Meeting; 9 April EOC, 19.30hrs
- Social Group; 16 April 12.00hrs - The Vines
- Committee Meeting; 23 April 2015 07.30hrs - EOC

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

Net Controller; Ken Hynds ZL2KHZ

## Branch 22 Notices

1. Looks like it is that quiet time of year!
2. NZART AGM, Hamilton..... May 30 - Jun 1

VHF - USB Net Wednesdays 1930  
144.150MHz

### LOOK WHAT BRANCH 22 WON BACK 😊



Grant, Clare & Helen at Base

Many thanks to all who helped at Wine & Food. Feb/March is our busiest time with calls for volunteers but the rest of the year is pretty quiet & the funds raised help us buy good equipment to further your enjoyment of the hobby.



Chef line-up



A small part of the crowd

Due to a bit of an un-noticed muck-up, the February committee Minutes did not appear in the last newsletter so here they are now...

**MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held at EOC on 26th February, 2015 @ 19:35 hrs**

**Present:** Kaye Hannagan (President), Grant Simpson (V/President), Chris Grant, Bill Cousins (Sec), Ken Hynds (Treasurer), Rob Carter, Paul Rennie

**Apologies:** Ken Menzies

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Inward:** Letters of thanks for Silver Fern payments from Otago & Christchurch branches.  
Post Office Box invoice

Letter of thanks from Pete Halligan for marathon support.

**Outward:** Emails to members regarding Field Day and AGM Nominations.

**REPORTS:**

**Finance:** Ken Hynds gave a brief report on the financial situation.  
Approval was given for the payment of several small accounts.

**Repeaters:** Ned repeater still noisy on occasions, but otherwise the repeaters are functional, except for the Golden Bay link. Nelson are currently working on the problem.

Weld Cone refurbishment has been completed.

Grant intends to pickup the Kaikoura repeater equipment at a convenient time with a view to extending the link from Weld Cone.

**BUSINESS ARISING:**

**Inventory of Club Equipment:** Ongoing.

**HF Tower:** The access key and rotator controller are currently held by Bill Cousins and meantime can be borrowed by members by contacting him on 579-3121 or [b.cousins@xtra.co.nz](mailto:b.cousins@xtra.co.nz). Bill suggested to the committee that a sub-committee or project group be set up to further the progress of this enterprise, such as the accommodation, on-site equipment and eventual remote local linking system. This met with approval by most.

**Equine Event:** Rob expressed thanks to those who took part.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Coming Events:**

12th March: Annual General Meeting, EOC, at 1930 hrs.

14<sup>th</sup> March: Combined BBQ at Carluke Domain with Nelson Branch.

14/15<sup>th</sup> March: RSGB (BERU) Commonwealth Contest

28<sup>th</sup> March: Graperide



Bert  
tosses  
the Tait

**Annual Subscriptions (2015):** These have been slow in coming in and are now overdue. Thanks to the efforts of all those that assist with the various sporting and community communications, subs remain at \$20.

**AGM:** President's and Treasurer's reports will be presented on the night whereas other reports will be published in Interface to save time at the AGM.

To date, no nominations have been received for the vacant (President & Secretary) positions.

**Carluke BBQ:** Grant & Caryl Simpson are steering this event.

**Solar Panels, ex-Ward:** An offer has been received from Tony Whitaker (ZL2RKL) to purchase these panels plus the controller. Ken Hynds to negotiate accordingly.

**Field Day:** Bill reported that arrangements for the Field Day activity have progressed well. Details were discussed and settled.

**General Meeting Guest Speakers:** General discussion around this topic.

**Branch Nets:** Rob raised the fact that these have been poorly attended of late. Members are reminded about the VHF Link on 146.950 (Ned + links) on Monday nights at 1930. The HF link will probably be discontinued if the inactivity continues.

**St Clare Half-Marathon and PRS Handhelds:** Discussion centered around an email from Stuart Watchman regarding a request to assist with this event and the possibility of purchasing several PRS handhelds for issuing to Security personnel, as required, at such events. Participation is not a problem as small numbers of personnel are involved but the handheld issue was left to the incoming committee to decide.

**NZART Annual Conference:** Grant Simpson offered to act as Branch delegate.

**Next committee meeting:** 26th March, 2015

**Closure:** There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2050 hrs.

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### CARLUKE COMBINED BRANCH 22/26 BBQ

There were a lot of other things on the weekend of the Interclub BBQ but we had a good number, about even from both branches, turn out for a day of fun and laughter with fine weather.

The day started with a Fox Hunt, which was won by Branch 22, although some got a good workout walking way further than necessary, probably due to the signal being scattered by the surrounding tin of the shed in which we hid the Fox.

While waiting for the meat to cook (sausages, bacon, beef and corn patties, steak) a lot of fun was had with the BBQ Puns game. People were given a page of puns with the answers mixed up at the bottom so they had to match the pun with the answer. A lot of laughter ensued.

Lunch was enjoyed by all with plenty of food and a variety of salads plus desserts to finish.

The Toss The Tait competition was fiercely fought for with Branch 22 winning thanks particularly to spectacular throws from Stuart and our new member Gavin.

After this everyone enjoyed a couple of quiz games with good hearted complaints and banter coming from both sides. There were a few arguments over the difference between metals and a minerals but all was sorted with good humour and it was agreed these games were easier on the body than a Tug O' War!

All in all everyone enjoyed themselves and Topsy reluctantly handed over the trophy after adding up the overall scores to discover Branch 22 had prevailed.

Thanks to all who participated and those who helped with the organisation, food preparation and cooking, especially Topsy, Helen, Heather S and Grant.



Grant tosses the Tait



**MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 83rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Held at EOC on 12th March 2015 @ 19:38 Hrs.**

**Present:** Grant Simpson (Chair), Bill Cousins (Secretary), Ken Hynds (Treasurer) plus 13 members.

**Apologies:** Harry Stephens, John Neal, Wayne Parker, Ian McKercher, Kaye Hannagan, Rob Carter, Paul Rennie, Colleen Lawson, Tony Daken.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 82nd AGM were taken as read in view of their being published in Interface. A vote was taken to accept them as a true and accurate record.

Helen Harris/Graham McCulloch – Carried

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Financial:** The financial report was circulated among the members for review and comment. This report has not been officially reviewed as yet due to the unexpected hospitalization of the reviewer, Mrs M.O'Connell.

Ken Hynds moved that this Financial Report be accepted.

Ken Hynds/Stuart Watchman - Carried

Helen Harris thanked the Treasurer for his diligence and hard work through a busy year, what with the NZART National Conference and the Silver Fern activity.

**Correspondence:** Nil

**Change to the Constitution:**

A change to the constitution as notified in Interface was tabled.

In summary, this affected Section 18 (Account and Audit) where the reference to calendar months was extended to three and the word "audited" was changed to "reviewed".

This also affected Section 19 necessitating a change from "auditor" to "reviewer".

Authority to change Section 18 was moved by Christine Conway and seconded by Helen Harris. The change to Section 19 was moved by Stuart Watchman and seconded by Gerard Van Antwerpen.

**Reports:**

The following listed reports published in Interface were taken as read

- President's
- QSL Manager
- Exam Supervisor's
- Social Group
- Repeaters
- AREC

Helen tosses  
the Tait



It was moved that the reports be accepted.

Ian Conway/Ron Harris - Carried

**Election of Officers:**

The incumbents of the following positions have agreed to continue in office:

Treasurer: Ken Hynds

Committee Members: Paul Rennie, Ken Menzies, Rob Carter, Chris Grant.

Grant Simpson was declared President, being the only nominee for the position.

Ken Hynds/Roger Lawson - carried.

Ken Menzies offered to serve as Vice-President.

There were no nominations received for the Secretary's position.

Stuart Watchman offered to serve on the committee meantime.

This was supported by Ken Hynds and seconded by Christine Conway.

It was moved that the willing incumbents of the following positions be confirmed:

QSL Manager	Bill Cousins
Examination Supervisors	Bill Cousins and John Neal
Call Sign Trustees	Ian Conway, Stuart Watchman

Repeater Trustees	Grant Simpson, Ken Menzies
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Morse	Ken Menzies,
Social Group Coordinator	Ross Holdaway
Training Officer	Stuart Watchman
Librarian	Gerard. van Antwerpen
Interface Editor	Caryl Simpson
Web Master	Grant Simpson
AREC Section Leader	Paul Rennie



Stuart tosses the Tait

Gerard Van Antwerpen/Helen Harris - Carried

The position of reviewer of the Accounts has yet to be confirmed in view of the current disability of Mrs O'Connell.

In accepting the position of President, Grant Simpson called for better communication in Committee affairs and event organisation. It was agreed that the President needs to be supported by the committee.

**General Business:**

**Subscriptions:** Christine Conway moved that subscriptions remain at their current level. Seconded Gerard Van Antwerpen - carried.

**Thanks:** Chris Grant expressed thanks to Kaye (in absentia) for her leadership as President over the past three years. She outlined achievements in that time. Carried by acclamation. Chris also thanked Bill Cousins for his service as Secretary. (See below)

**Closure:** There being no further AGM business the meeting was closed at 2030 hrs and followed by the Club's Monthly General Meeting.



**Radio Club Acknowledgement of Past President and Secretary**

In Kaye's absence, I would like to place on record our acknowledgement of her hard work and leadership over the past three years.

Kaye brought a fresh outlook to the role, bringing a management perspective rather than a technical ham - ing perspective. She was able to stand back and maintain an overview. She has been good at identifying tasks and projects that had been started and maintaining a watching brief to nudge them along.

She has also maintained an awareness to enable planning to include a future looking focus. What with the Conference, the Silver Fern Rally, our new and regular activities, a lot has been achieved in the last three years. Our thanks.

Bill is also standing down having given four years service to the club as secretary.

Bill has a real ability to handle issues and tasks efficiently, quietly, effectively and reliably.

He has also organised our interesting and high calibre speakers to appeal to a wide range of technical and practical abilities in the club.

Bill maintains an overview of club issues and needs and is very good at seeing things through.

For these things our thanks.



Carluka BBQ lunch

- Chris Grant



**MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB GENERAL MEETING**  
**Held at EOC on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 @ 2030 hrs.**

**Present:** 16 members

**Apologies:** John Neal, Paul Rennie, Ian McKercher, Kaye Hannagan, Rob Carter, Colleen Lawson, Harry Stephens, Tony Daken, Wayne Parker

**Minutes:** Taken as read.

**Correspondence:**

**Incoming:** Companies Office requesting Financial Statement.  
Subscriptions.

**Outgoing:** Thanks to Field Day participants.

**Reports:**

Treasurer Ken Hynds gave a brief statement of the current financial affairs and recent transactions.

**Business Arising:**

**Coming Events:**

14<sup>th</sup> March: Carluke Domain BBQ with Nelson Branch.

28<sup>th</sup> March: Graperide. Stuart indicated that a number had indicated their willingness to help.

**General Business:**

**2015/2016 Projects:**

President Grant indicated that he would like to see two major projects completed this year - the extension of the VHF repeater link to Kaikoura and the completion of the HF installation at Brayshaw Park.

Mention was made of the forming of a sub-committee to oversee the latter and reiterated the call for expressions of interest to serve on that body.

**Guest Speakers:**

A request was made for ideas for speakers and subjects for General Meeting events.

The speaker at the April meeting will be Gerard Van Antwerpen who will display his sextant.

Other suggestions were:

- John Neal and his recent trans-Tasman trip ferrying an aircraft
- Isobel Holland on Monitoring Service
- Stuart Watchman's Space Odyssey
- Peter Carter and the distribution & control of electrical power in Marlborough
- the saga of achieving successful crystal control in communications equipment.

**Baofeng UV-6 Handheld Purchase:**

Stuart Watchman suggested the purchase of 20 handhelds for use in such events as Graperide and the Wine & Food Festival. They are simpler to operate than previous units issued to mobile non-ham helpers and could also be used by security staff at the W&F. The purchase would include spare batteries and some speaker-mics

As the cost would be \$NZ1737, the committee sought the support of members for the expenditure.

Ian Conway moved that the purchase be expedited. Seconded Ken Menzies - carried.

**Thanks:**

Graham McCulloch moved a vote of thanks to the outgoing committee for their service to the club over the past year.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2047 hrs.



Ron tosses the Tait



Grant gets attacked by Topsy

## 2015 GRAPE RIDE REPORT

The 11<sup>th</sup> Grape Ride was held on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> with 18 of our club members involved playing a key part.

We have the roadside communications pretty much nailed now: with Picton 7225 and 695 tied to three more portable repeaters: UHF 8725 at Governor's bay and Long Valley rd. and the VHF 6725 on the ridge above Cullen's point. Tuamarina 845 was tied to 695 via cross band repeater in town. The 6725 unit turned out to have an antenna fault, Grant was able to work around this, and a later inspection revealed a loose connector which has been repaired.

The Governor's Bay repeater was linked to 7225 and the Long Valley Rd unit linked to 695. These units contain a UHF repeater and a VHF set for linking. The challenge has been linking the 6725 unit above Havelock. In the past we have used the clubs portable IRLP node at Havelock but internet access has been a problem. This year we intended to link it back to 695 via a cross band repeater to the Long Valley Rd unit but the signal strength at Havelock where Grant attempted to set this up was too weak. Prior to dismantling the repeater at Long Valley Ron ZL2BDD was able to drive along SH6 to find a location where we might site a cross band repeater next year.

Last year we sited the UHF repeater on a 400 m peak above the SH6 straights on the Blenheim side of Havelock, which would have made linking easier, but the disadvantage is the extra installation work and a potentially very slippery access road.

We worked around the linking problem this year by having Grant at Havelock relay 6725 traffic to 695 and base.

Again we set up timing equipment at the Wedge for the organisers, thanks to Rob 2IW for doing this.

One thing we have learned over the years is that the distribution of accidents is pretty random. They do tend to mostly happen between the Grove Rd bridge and Cullen's point. About the third year we had a large number of prangs between the Wedge and Ngakuta and nil anywhere else. The year after nil in that area and mostly between Grovetown and Picton. This year we were back to mainly between the Elevation and Governor's bay. The worst accident was going down the elevation. About 15 - 20 were transported to Wairau by ambulance this year, probably the most we have had for a while and the radio traffic reflected that. The wet weather probably played a role here, and cyclists going too fast!

The tail end cyclists were about an hour or so faster than last year which made life easier for Roger ZL2ROG in the 'Gutter Sucker' van.

The new Baofeng UV-6 handhelds worked very well, with the operators appreciating the simple channel selection.

One thing we need to look at is how what routine reporting we need from around the course. There were times when some priority traffic got held up but a quick announcement from base seemed to sort that. We also need to work on improving some basic procedures, an example being if copy was poor: "say again" is much better than "you faded that time and got distorted.... etc". I wonder how much we should be aiming for a 'quiet channel' and I would appreciate feedback (plus any other feedback) on this.

Thanks to all that helped out, I hope you all enjoyed yourselves. It was great to have our new member Gavin ZL4IY along this year. Helpers ZL's Ken 2BJV, Paul 2RE, Rob 2IW, Gavin 4IY, Harry 4HES, Ian 2BGL, Bill 2AYZ, Grant 2BK, Roger 2BHG, Colleen 2LY, Tony 2RKL, Chris 2CHG, Roger 2ROG, Kaye 2KHZ, Ron 2BDD, Helen 2HH and Clare.

### - Stuart Watchman

One of Nelson's quiz teams, Carluke BBQ



**MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING**  
held at EOC, 26 March 2015 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Grant Simpson (President), Stuart Watchman, Paul Rennie, Ken Menzies, Rob Carter, Chris Grant.

**Apologies:** Ken Hynds

Minutes of the February meeting were not available. To be confirmed by email.

**Matters Arising:** Nil

**Financial Report** was tabled. Half Ironman donation outstanding due to one of the organisers health issues. They are aware of the situation and are addressing the problem.

**REPORTS**

**Repeaters:** No change. Everything else working OK.

**AREC:** Paul reported on a search for an elderly woman missing in the Waihopai area from 6am Monday 16 March to 11.30am Tuesday. A successful outcome was reported. There were some issues with comms from the Police Station. Communication from Civil Defence Headquarters is more effective.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

- **Brayshaw Park Tower:** Ongoing. Bill Cousins convening small group to manage the process.
- **Kaikoura Repeater:** Grant awaiting information. The plan is to get the hardware sorted then provide a better power source.
- **Ward:** Guy wires slack and rusting.
- **New Radios:** Box needed for storage. Stuart to action.
- **23 Old Radios:** Investigate options for disposal. Stuart to action.
- **Request** to Paul from Marlborough Car Club for advice on replacing their current radio communications system.
- Also, looking for assistance for an event on 19 April. Rob to follow up.

Speaker for the next club meeting will be Gerard Van Antwerpen talking about, and demonstrating, a sextant he has acquired..

**Meeting Closure:** 8.30pm.

The winning toss  
by Gavin Piercy



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

*This gives you the opportunity to see what events are coming up in **your** club and make sure **you** volunteer for something, if you are able, and mark it on your calendar!*

**APRIL 2015**

3 - 5 (Proposed) Easter weekend Horse Event



**MAY/JUNE 2015**

30 - June 1 NZART AGM and Conference, Hamilton

## PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

We have had a busy time with a number of events over the last few weeks. The barbeque at Carluke was enjoyed by a number of people from both Nelson and Blenheim. Maybe we need to look at changing the day to Sunday as has been suggested. What do you think?

The Grape Ride last weekend was another success but it's getting more difficult to have enough volunteers on the day. Put it in your diaries for next year please.

Thank you all who helped with the various events. Our busy season is over now but there will be more requests coming at times. These things help raise money so we can buy or upgrade equipment to further our hobby.

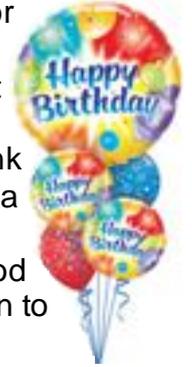
We're all getting older too. Happy birthday to Stuart. It was one of those important ones with a 0 in the number.

Two important tasks that we all will look forward to completing this year are the link to Kaikoura and the HF station at Brayshaw Park. Bill has been using the antenna there with success. If you want to try it then contact Bill.

We still need a new secretary to take over from Bill. Think about this as it's a good time to take over this job. Shouldn't be too difficult with no conference or Silver Fern to worry about!

Thank you, Kaye, for the hard work and hours you put into the job of President over the last few years. Chris Grant has a better way with words than me. Enjoy being in the not too distant background now.

Unfortunately I will not be at the next meeting as I have a prior engagement in Nelson that night so will miss Gerard's talk. I am sure all will be ably run by the Vice President.

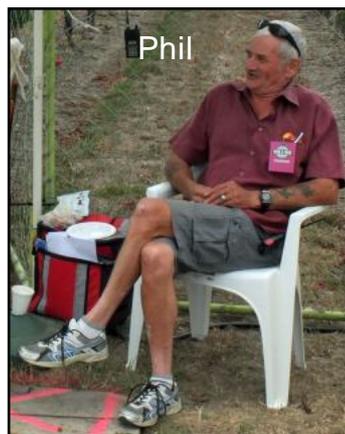


### - Grant Simpson, ZL2BK



Kaye

Bill



Phil



Stuart

### WORKING HARD AT THE WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

Some of the volunteers on the day

Gerard



Paul



Ken

Rob & Ian

