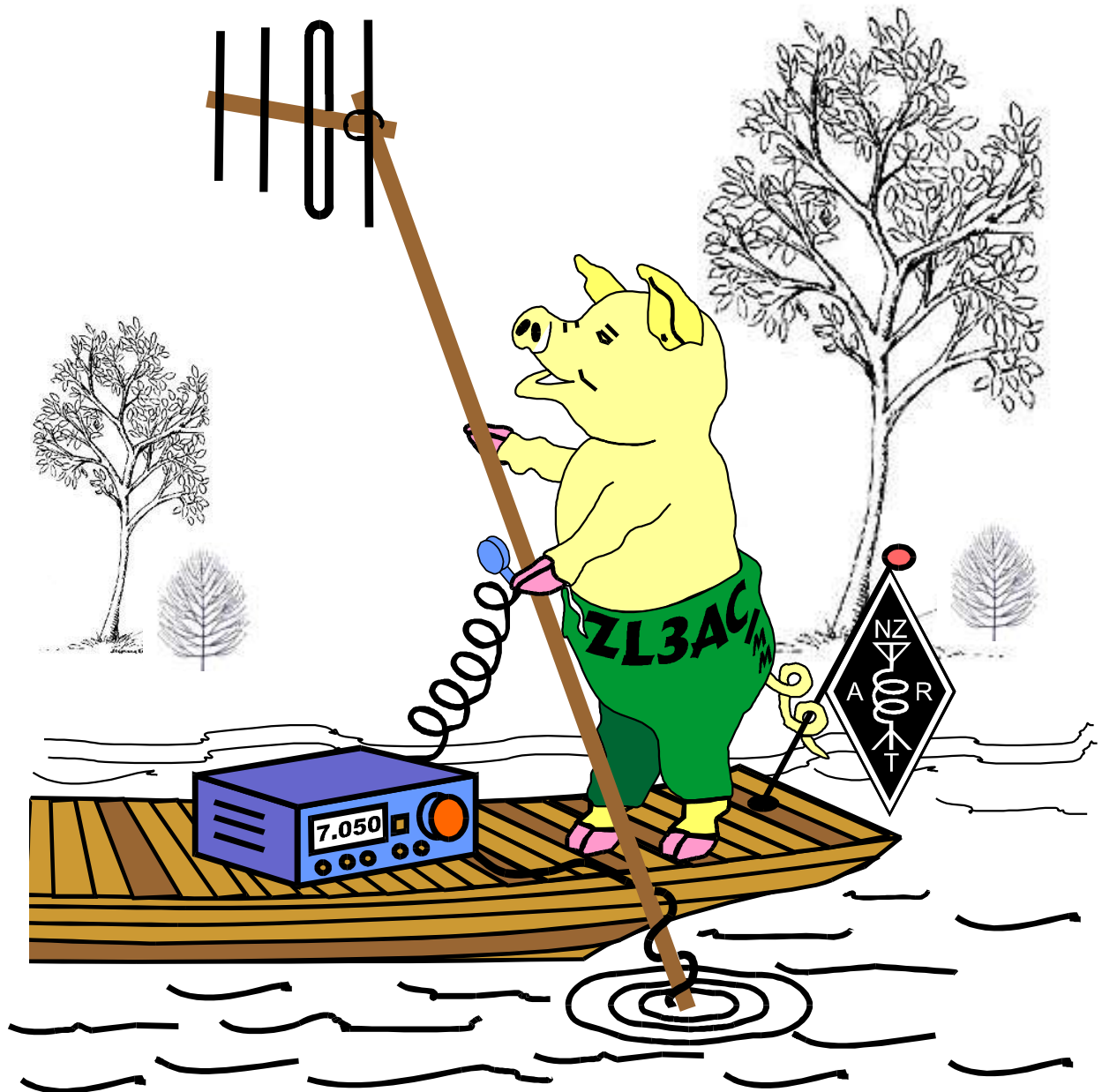


HAMLARKS

Christchurch Amateur Radio Club



February 2015

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.

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

COMMITTEE MEETING 1st Monday after branch meeting 7.30pm
At 5 Idris Road, Fendalton

AREC MEETINGS Normally the 2nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm. 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 145.625MHz repeater if available, otherwise 147.050MHz repeater.

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

NEW ZEALAND YOUNG AMATEURS CLUB NET (Branch05)

Meet every Tuesday night at Branch05 clubrooms.

Branch 05 Website www.chchhamradio.org.nz

Programme for next branch meeting

This month's presentation will be by Mark Empson, ZL3TKI, Director at Advanced Motor Control Ltd.

"One topic that may be of interest to all amateurs, that is Electro Magnetic Compatibility (EMC) /Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) issues with Variable Frequency Drives (VFD) and how to improve/cure them. This is a topic that I have been battling with the authorities for many years and trying to educate the industry in the correct way to use the technology. This will be of interest for those trying to use 80M and the AM broadcast band".

Presidents Annual Report (2014)

This year the club has continued to “squat” in our Idris Road clubrooms while we wait for the City Council to approve our lease application.

Some minor maintenance has been completed, electrics by Alan ZL3GX and Ron ZL3RON, plastering by Graham ZL3NK and Andrew ZL3KKW, other stuff by the Tuesday night group. Some enhancements have also been completed at several Saturday morning working bees, preceded by breakfast catered by David ZL2IC. When our lease is finally approved and we purchase the building from the Scouts we will consider strengthening and adding a garage at the front.

The accounts have shown a healthy surplus and once the clubrooms are finalised we should invest some of our funds in ham radio.

The monthly meetings have been well attended with over 60 visiting Orion in August. I am especially keen to get good “ham radio” speakers and think we should consider bringing speakers from out of town occasionally. Once we get better established, with good internet connectivity, we could also use technologies such as Skype for presentations at monthly meetings.

The Club Picnic was held in January at Orton Bradley and planning is under way for the 2015 picnic at Spencer Park.

Radiotek is getting full houses, with many repeat participants. More helpers are always welcome.

A small group has been investigating a club SDR. As well as providing receive facilities for those with high noise at the home QTH, there is also an opportunity for experimentation.

Finally my thanks to committee and officers for their support during the year, especially Rory ZL3HB who keeps the club ticking over. We were very proud when Rory was awarded the NZART 2013 Amateur of the Year at the NZART Conference in June.

Ian MacPherson ZL3TAO

Presidents report for Hamlarks

Rory and I attended the December meeting of the Community Board and feel the outcome was very positive, although we are still waiting for the lease details. Quite a bit of progress has been made on the shack and workshop at the clubrooms. The container has been emptied and we are doing a bit of de-cluttering via Trademe.

We are hoping to have a presentation on a DMR repeater at our February meeting – we have submitted a Form 10 to establish one on Marleys hill.

The Robotics group will be meeting at our clubrooms on 16th February – if you are interested you will see some familiar faces there.

National Field Day is being held at the end of the month and as AREC are not required for the Coast to Coast they are hoping to have a lot of participation. Find out more details at the meeting.

Ian MacPherson ZL3TAO

From the Hamlarks editor – ZL3KB

What a great summer we are having. I resolved to get some time off over Christmas and get some overdue jobs done, and I think I have succeeded somehow. So that is 2014 out the way, now for another year, and hope they keep coming.

With the big change in communications we have seen with the Coast to Coast, does this not tell us something about the technology we are using in ham radio, the needs of young amateurs, and the call to modernise our ham exam? Food for thought.

73's CUAGN ZL3KB K

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Hamads \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

For Sale Hank Jacomatti has some old (over 60 years old) radio receivers that have travelled around the world with him. One Philips. Anyone interested to take them, could give him a call on 329 4888.

Secretary Rory's Ramblings - ZL3HB

Another great day in paradise as the heat continues. Might need to install aircon in the clubrooms along with the heating! Luckily our meetings are in the cool of the evening.

Br 05 picnic today at Spencer Park was good with a fine & hot day in the sun & a lot cooler in the shade with the easterly. About 12 present along with No 19 & 38 sets. Got some interest from other kids around the park!

Another meeting with Council at the clubrooms last week that went well. Lease being drawn up & we need to get some landscaping ideas for final sign off by community board. All seem to be happy about garaging but of course there are design & consent hurdles to cross yet but I'm sure it will all happen.

Working bee was well attended with a good tidy up and a corner table has been fitted for the junk (quality gear!!) along with a dung out so looks a lot better. On to the workshop shelving & bench next.

Remits re the exam have been sent to HQ so will be interesting to see how that pans out!

Speakers for meetings is a bit of an issue as we have been trying to arrange some of interest but schedules don't seem to match our meetings. So any ideas you have would be appreciated to try & get a bit of a pool to call on.

Also - do any of you have any spare call books from the 2000's on. No modern ones at the clubrooms, firstly for the shack & then for the library collection. Old ones are useful for reference when the subject of who had what call when comes up in discussion.

Will see those of you who can make it in Feb

Cheers

Rory ZL3HB

Branch 05 annual picnic January 2015

The weather was perfect, warm and sunny, for the Branch05 picnic at Spencer Park. Eleven members, including wives, came along for a pleasant relaxation in the park, with Branch05 sausages expertly sizzled by Rory ZL3HB.

ZL3APB brought along some of his father's military radios, and set them up in the park, which attracted many kids attention; they seem to be fascinated in the old technology.



Coast to Coast communications go digital

As Steve mentioned at the last AREC meeting (November), this year we were not the only option to provide communications for the Coast to Coast.

Steve received email confirmation that the alternative system has passed its initial trials, and the organisers have decided to adopt the new system so - AREC will not be providing the communications for the 2015 Speights Coast to Coast.

A very small amount of high level detail was provided on the new system - which we will make available at the next AREC meeting and the reasons for the decision being made in the email.

The basis for the decision was for specific capabilities of the new digital radio system, and some specific features that have been promised with some future development - neither cost or performance of AREC appear to be factors as best we can tell. As far as cost is concerned, I would expect that the new system will likely be considerably more expensive to put in place.

With the race now having new owners, there are a number of other changes occurring in the operation, including change of Operations Manager, a new route, changes to entry conditions, and I believe (but not confirmed) possibly new timing crews/systems.

While we cannot predict if AREC will again be involved, of course anything is possible. So in the meantime, I wish to thank everybody for their involvement in previous C2C events - I believe that we have been creditable providers of communications as well as learning a large amount ourselves on how to improve and optimise the capabilities and equipment we have. There have been many hours of hard work and everyone has made outstanding contributions.

As Ian McPherson indicated after the Classic Kayak race, it looks very promising that we will see more Jet Boat racing events in the coming year, so I do not expect that our options to train, practice and be communicators will dramatically diminish.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards

Richard S ZL4FZ

The largest vessel the world has ever seen

From the BBC website:

The world's largest ship, Prelude is a staggering 488m long and the best way to grasp what this means is by comparison with something more familiar. Four football pitches placed end-to-end would not quite match this vessel's length - and if you could lay the Eiffel Tower alongside it, or the Empire State Building, they wouldn't do so either. In terms of sheer volume, Prelude is mind-boggling too: if you took six of the world's largest aircraft carriers, and measured the total amount of water they displaced, that would just about be the same as with this one gigantic vessel. Under construction for the energy giant Shell, the dimensions of the platform are striking in their own right - but also as evidence of the sheer determination of the oil and gas industry to open up new sources of fuel.

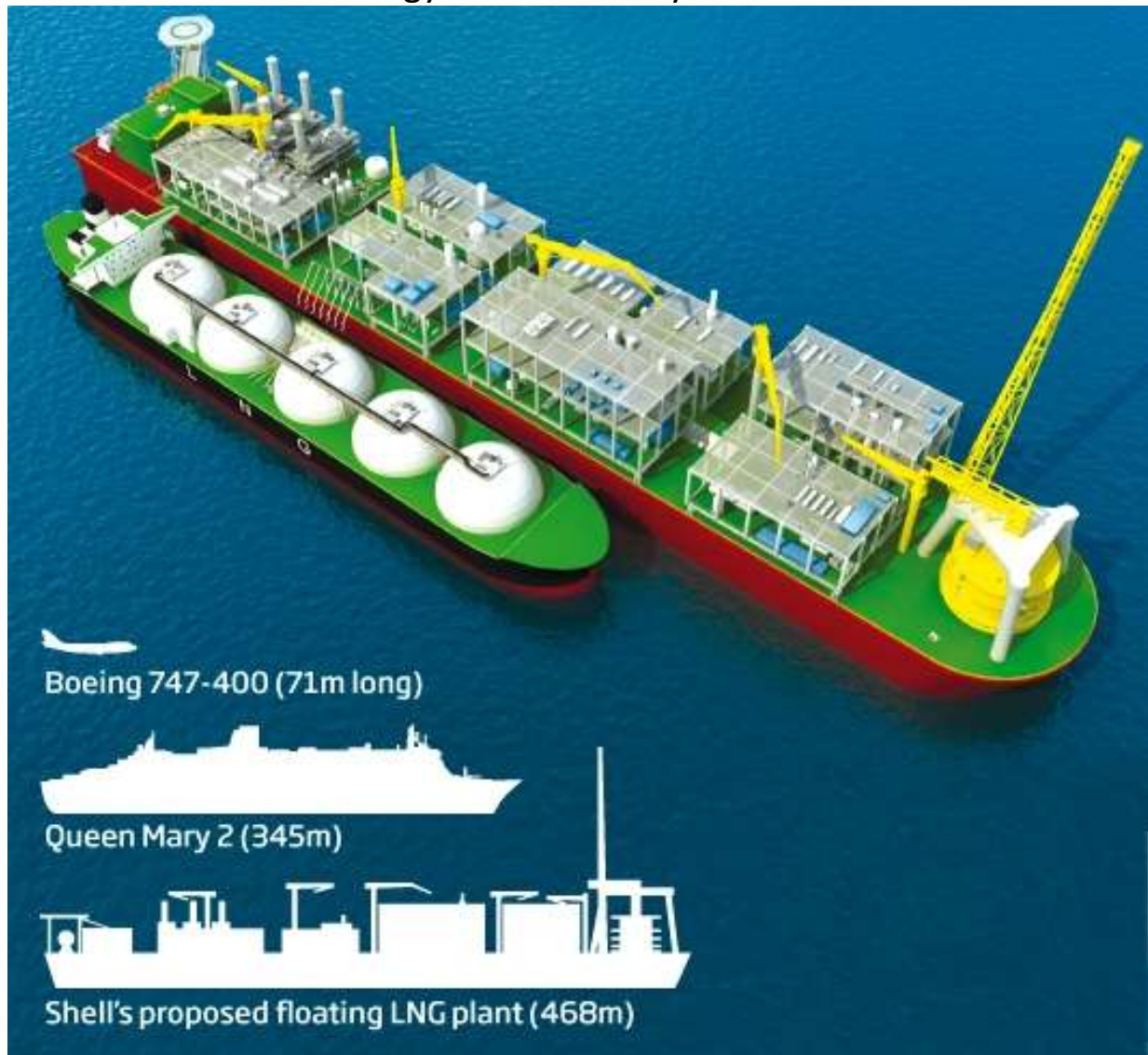


Modules weighing 5,500 tonnes are lifted onto the vessel by huge cranes

Prelude also pioneers a new way of getting gas from beneath the ocean floor to the consumers willing to pay for it.

Until now, gas collected from offshore wells has had to be piped to land to be processed and then liquefied ready for export. Usually, this means building a huge facility onshore which can purify the gas and then chill it so that it becomes a liquid - what's known as liquefied natural gas or LNG - making it 600 times smaller in volume and therefore far easier to transport by ship. And LNG is in hot demand - especially in Asia, with China and Japan among the energy-hungry markets.

To exploit the Prelude gas field more than 100 miles off the northwest coast of Australia, Shell has opted to bypass the step of bringing the gas ashore, instead developing a system which will do the job of liquefaction at sea. Hence Prelude will become the world's first floating LNG plant - or FLNG in the terminology of the industry.



Minutes of the Branch 05 meeting

Christchurch Amateur Radio Club meeting 3rd December 2014

Apologies ZL3GX, ZL2UCX, ZL3SZ. Moved to accept by Ian ZL3TAO.
Carried.

Visitors Kev Milner

Minutes of November meeting moved to accept by Rory ZL3HB,
seconded Richard ZL4FZ. Carried.

Correspondence Q-bit, Council email re report to community
board.

Reports ARECKlassic Kayak Sunday 14th

Search for missing boy. Started to assemble when
he turned up.

SAREX 16th Dec at Gondola – small event.

AREC meeting next Wednesday for KK

Repeaters

All running OK

Mt Grey – Police looking at changing frequency
due to interference.

National System – more local interference.

QSL Bureau

No Cards in

Tuesday night

David ZL3DO reported well attended. Been a good
year with a few new Hams.

Still working on OCF - too close to roof?

Band report

12m open to Europe, midnight to 1AM plus 10m at
times. 6m to Japan, Oz & China. 2m on meteor scatter.

General Business

SDR - Rod ZL3ROD has an operating receiver
online. Crashing at times with excess use.

A softrock on 20m and 2m. To add 40m & UHF.

Club will talk to Rod re our aspirations along those lines.

Lease from Council on track with report going to Community Board.

List at rear of room for gear from ZL3BG.

Meeting closed at 7.57 PM to give way to AGM.

Christchurch Amateur Radio Club Contacts

Committee for 2014

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