

October 2014

INTERFACE

MONTHLY BULLETIN - MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.
P.O. BOX 432 BLENHEIM NEW ZEALAND



CLUB CALENDAR:

Editor: Caryl Simpson
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- General Meeting; 9 Oct. EOC, 19.30hrs
- Social Group; 16 Oct. 12.00hrs - The Vines
- Committee Meeting; 23 Oct. 07.30hrs - EOC

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

BRANCH 22 NOTICES

- 1. Silver Fern Rally.....8 - 15 November
- 2. Christmas Parade.....6 December
- 3. BBQ Onamalutu.....18 January

HF Net Fridays 1930
3.575MHz

VHF - USB Net Wednesdays 1930
144.150MHz

CONSTRUCTOR'S AWARD

Congratulations, and thanks, to Ken Menzies, ZL2BJV, the 2014 Constructor's Award only entrant (so I moved the apostrophe) and winner. Ken built a synthesised transceiver.



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB GENERAL MEETING
Held at EOC on 11th September, 2014 @ 1940 hrs.

Present: 15 members

Apologies: Wayne Parker, Helen and Ron Harris

Correspondence:

In: QSL card from KA3UNQ (Lighthouse Weekend) AON Insurance Renewal
Out: ZL6CC QSL card to KA3UNQ

Reports:

Financial from Ken Hynds. Account approval for tower paint and Silver Fern halyard given.

AREC: Paul gave notice of an intended test of 5MHz frequencies particularly for Silver Fern mobile operators.

Business Arising:

Remote HF Site: Paul Rennie and Bill Cousins have moved the tower to Brayshaw Park from Selmes Road. Thanks to Paul for securing a suitable truck with HIAB for the job.

Bill touched up paintwork on the tower.

Awaiting plinth installation by Cuddons Engineering.

6m Beacon: Grant is testing this unit at Faulkland Drive prior to installation.

Silver Fern Car Rally (November): Helen is canvassing for Base operators and Rob contacting potential mobile operators.

Remote HF sites at Bells Road and Selmes Road being worked on.

Lighthouse Weekend: Bill gave a brief summary of the weekend. (See separate report in Interface)

General Business:

Nelson Bateman (ZL3FM) was welcomed and Chris Grant welcomed home after her overseas trip.

Coming Events:

9th October: Next General Meeting.
 Black Propaganda in WWII.

Kaye also mentioned that with so many events coming up later this year and early next, she has asked Caryl Simpson to include a calendar of events in Interface.

WESTFEST: Stuart and Rob summarised events at this very successful and enjoyable weekend.

Change to Constitution: Ken Hynds gave notice that a change to the constitution is to be sought next February for ratification at the next AGM in March.

Change of President: Kaye gave notice of her intention to conclude her term of President at the next AGM and asked members to give thought to a replacement with vision for the club's future

Closure: There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2000 hrs and followed by a presentation by the sole contender for the Constructors Award, Ken Menzies. Ken displayed and described his synthesized DSB transceiver which took to the air recently.



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at EOC on 28th August, 2014 @ 19:30 hrs

PRESENT: Kaye Hannagan (Pres), Chris Grant, Bill Cousins (Sec), Ken Hynds (Treas), Rob Carter, Paul Rennie, Stuart Watchman (for Silver Fern discussions)

APOLOGIES: Grant Simpson (late arrival), Ken Menzies

CORRESPONDENCE:

Inward: QSL cards from Bureau

Outward: Nil

REPORTS:

Finance: Ken Hynds gave a brief report on the financial situation.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Inventory of Club Equipment: Ongoing.

Silver Fern Rally: Still awaiting up-to-date maps from Carlo that will print out on A4.

Stuart reported on the Base progress:

- Selmes Road HF remote site almost ready and Bells Road expected to be dealt to one day in October/early November.
- Internet linking test to Wairau Hospital recreation hall to take place on 30th September.
- Rob reported on the Mobile situation:
- The contacting of potential mobile operators is expected to be completed by the 28th September.
- There is general satisfaction with the progress thus far.
- Ken Hynds to formulate a Financial Claims template for the Rally.
- The 5MHz linking tests will probably be put forward from the original proposed date of 4/5th October.

HF Tower: The tower is now on site at Brayshaw Park. The reinforcing cage fabrication has been completed and is also on site. We await the pouring of the plinth by the paving contractors.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Coming Events:

9th October: General Meeting. Dirty Politics in WW2. A documentary by the RSGB on Black Propaganda played successfully on the enemy, largely by radio.

11/12th October: Oceania Contest (CW section) See last month's Interface or the NZART website.

The December General Meeting will be an informal Christmassy event, similar to last year.

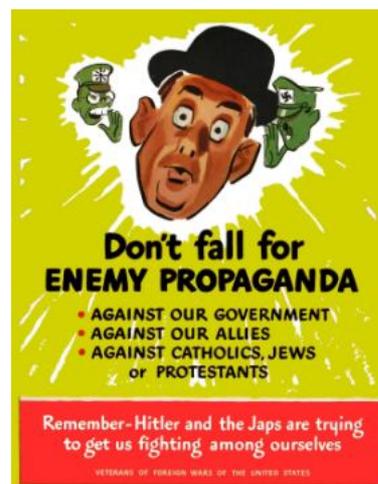
The continuing success of the Beginning-of-Year BBQ at Onamalutu will be continued on the 18th January, 2015.

Meeting Features:

Paul suggested that the Brancott Falcon Trust would be an interesting topic.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: A Silver Fern update prior to the next General Meeting on the 9th October, at 1900 hrs at EOC.

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



WESTFEST

Westfest was held at the Murchison Bowling Club over the weekend of the 6th and 7th of September. The occasion was attended by 39 hams and partners who travelled from Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast and Canterbury.



To kick things off on Saturday morning Bob ZL3TY welcomed all who attended, as we digested the scones, biscuits and tea prepared by Topsy ZL2LS and Jeanette ZL3DYL. Following the introduction, we were updated on news from NZART from Association Vice President Stuart ZL2TW.

Andrew ZL3DW presented a talk on the book he has written about software defined radio, that he published for free on Amazon. The method shared with us by Andrew is a far cheaper way of publishing and printing a book than using local printing agents.

After a break for lunch we all gathered back at the bowling club for a presentation by Tony ZL3HAM on his G3TXQ broadband hexagonal HF beam antenna, a great performer on the 20m-6m bands. His talk included was a humorous tale of the process undertaken to install such a beam at the top of his mast.

Clive Rowe gave a presentation on the Ring Laser Project. A tale was told that took us through over 40 years of the design, build and use of a machine that is able to detect movement in the earth including the rate that it rotates.



Steve ZL2ASF aided by son Alex followed with a presentation about amateur television. This included an explanation on the conversion of an analogue TV translator to a HD TV transmitter. Access to DTV CH25 was discussed with the hopes this could be up and running soon.

To wrap up the day we learned all about a wide band noise generator, a device that uses dual resonant transformers to create a spectacular light and sound show. Most will know this device better as the Tesla Coil. To finish the presentation Dave ZL3FJ made sure we were all awake with an amazing demonstration.

Sunday morning we all gathered bright eyed and bushy tailed to enjoy Stuart ZL2TW's presentation on the Apollo project. An interesting tale on the history of NASA's mission to the Moon.

After bringing a project for show and tell, Roger ZL3RC aka ZL3THQ did a presentation of his 1KW linear amplifier for the 70cm band. Designed by W6PQL this project proves to be a reliable, solid state



and cheap solution for those wishing to use UHF over long distances.

Last but not least was a presentation by Steve ZL2ASF and son Alex on using high voltage transmission lines for radiating low frequency voice transmissions. A result being a signal of S9+40 on 160m at a distance of 80km. Steve is currently building a 472kHz band transmitter using low cost switch mode MOSFETS to test this further.



Westfest was wrapped up at 1230 on Sunday afternoon, with a good time had by all who attended, and all looking forward to the next one.



Report by Dylan Smart ZL2SAR reproduced with permission from CQ Nelson. Thanks also to Dave, ZL2BCA, for the photos.

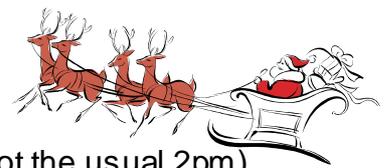
Note: With a raffle and entry fee Westfest made profit of \$300 which was generously donated to the NZART 2015 World Radio Conference fund.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

NOVEMBER 2014

8 - 15 Silver Fern Car Rally



DECEMBER 2014

6 Christmas Parade (**NB:** starting at 6pm this year, not the usual 2pm)

JANUARY 2015

18 BBQ combined Nelson/Marlborough - Onamalutu



FEBRUARY 2015

7 Half Ironman
14 Wine & Food Festival
28 Jock White Field Day



MARCH 2015

1 Cycle Race (2 hours in morning)
8 or 15 Carluke BBQ
28 Grape Ride



APRIL 2015

3 - 5 (Proposed) Easter weekend Horse Event