

August 2015

INTERFACE

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

Club Calendar

General Meeting; 13 Aug EOC, 19.30hrs

Social Group; 20 Aug 12.00hrs - The Vines

Committee Meeting; 27 Aug 2015 07.30hrs - EOC

Branch 22 Notices

1. Mid-winter Lunch Speight's AlehouseAug 9th
2. Lighthouse Weekend.....Aug 15/16
3. CONSTRUCTORS' AWARD.....Sept 10



Editor: Caryl Simpson
caryl@simtronics.co.nz

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

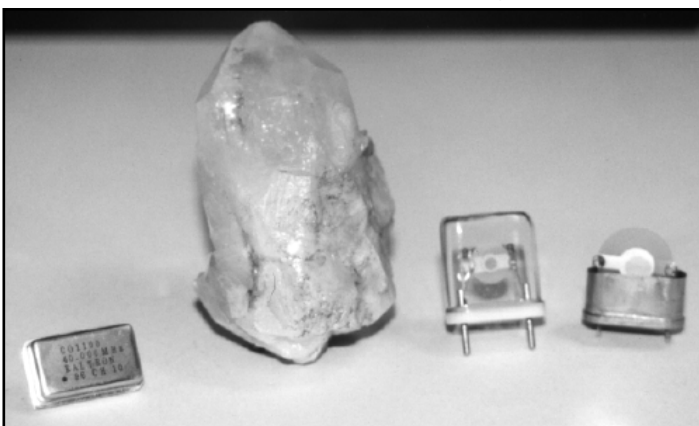
Net Controller; Ken Hynds ZL2KHZ

VHF - USB Net Wednesdays 1930
144.150MHz

NEXT MEETING'S TALK; "The Struggle for Reliable Communications Technology in WW2".

Bill Cousins will present a summary of the book "Crystal Clear", which provides a fascinating outline of the development of quartz oscillators which became the second largest undertaking in WW2 after the development of the atomic bomb.

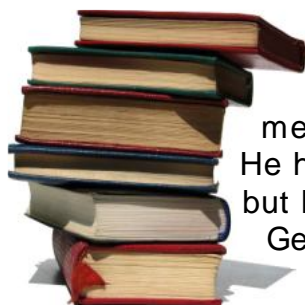
An intrepid group of scientists and engineers had to find a reliable supply of quartz, devise methods to mine and transport it and, amongst other problems, solve the puzzling "aging problem" that plagued early units. All this has ramifications to the present



day in clocks, colour TV, computers, cellphones and synthesisers generally.

Have you ever stepped on an *oscillator*? It hertz!

SEX, RADIO WAVES AND THE ADVERSE EFFECT ON RADIO HAMS!



Now that I have your attention, Gerard is making a list of all the books belonging to the radio club. There are some currently lent out to members, and he'd like to get the details of those books.

He has the details of the books (about 40 of them) that were in the cupboard but knows there are a few missing. If you have one of them, please contact Gerard with the details ASAP.

ph: 578 4299 fax: 578 4294 or email gerardA@cudon.co.nz

MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB GENERAL MEETING
Held at EOC on 9th July 2015 @ 1940 hrs.

Present: 10 members

Apologies: Ron Harris, Helen Harris, Chris Grant, Rob Carter, Paul Rennie

Correspondence: Nil

Reports:

Treasurer Ken Hynds gave a brief statement of the current financial affairs, indicating that current holdings are \$35,520.



Business Arising:

EOC Truck Shed Cleanout: Any redundant gear to be advertised in Interface.

General Business:

Brayshaw Park Site: A meeting of the Working Group decided on the general layout and requirements of the shed. A firm quote from Martellas has been requested and it is expected that an order will be placed shortly.

The remote control will probably be based on a Pipo X8 unit.

Mid-Winter Lunch: Speights Ale House. Sunday 9th August, at 1pm. (Drinks at 12.30)

Lighthouse Weekend: Only two have indicated interest to date.

VK-Tasman Top-band Challenge: July 18th, 160/80/40m. Various modes.



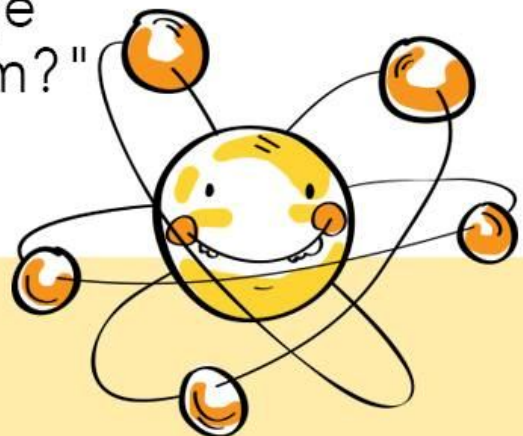
There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2000 hrs and followed by Show and Tell contributions from Bill Marsh (MF Broadcast receiving loop antenna), Ken Menzies (Tuning Fork watch mechanism), Grant Simpson (Pipo X8 internet remote control system for transceivers, including demonstration), John Neal (QRP transceiver and DDS synthesizer), and Bill Cousins (160m Windom antenna for VK-Tasman Top Band Challenge and reasons for choice from alternative antennas).



A photon checked into a motel.

The receptionist asked,
"Do you have any luggage
we can bring to your room?"

The photon replied,
"No, thanks.
I'm traveling light."



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING
Held at EOC on 23rd July, 2015 @ 19:40 hrs

Present: Grant Simpson (President), Ken Menzies, Bill Cousins (Acting Sec), Rob Carter, Stuart Watchman, Paul Rennie

Apologies: Chris Grant (overseas), Ken Hynds

Correspondence: Nil

The Marlborough Express
YOUR LOCAL NEWS PAPER

REPORTS:

Paul Rennie drew attention to an article in the Marlborough Express (and Press) praising the work of AREC and others in the successful rescue of two trampers on Mt Riley.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Inventory of Club Equipment: Ongoing.

Brayshaw Park HF site: Ken Menzies tabled a quote from Martella Refrigeration for the hut. The order has been placed. Grant undertook to contact John Neal regarding the internet access link and testing of the same.

Kaikoura Repeater: Ken Menzies queried the holdup in establishing this link. Grant to attempt further contact with Thaddeus Julian.

Guy Wires at Ward: Ongoing due to winter weather.

EOC Key: Gary Spence (EOC) has been advised of the change of key possession from Ron Harris to the President, Grant Simpson.

Mid-Winter Dinner: 9th August, at Speight's Alehouse. 1 pm. RSVP to Caryl Simpson (578-9390 or caryl@simtronics.co.nz by July 31st.

Lighthouse Weekend: The date for this event is 15/16th August.

The booking for the facilities has been confirmed along with an application to use the ZL6CC callsign. To date, 4 possibly 5 have indicated an intention to attend. Please contact Rob Carter urgently (572-7056) if you would like to go.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Branch Website: To be registered as ZL2KS.org.nz. Gerard Van Antwerpen continuing to progress this facility.

Light Beacon Project: Following a suggestion from Wayne Parker, Rob Carter outlined a possible project involving a light beacon on Wither Hills with coded messages for children. The basic intention would be to provide some publicity for the club.

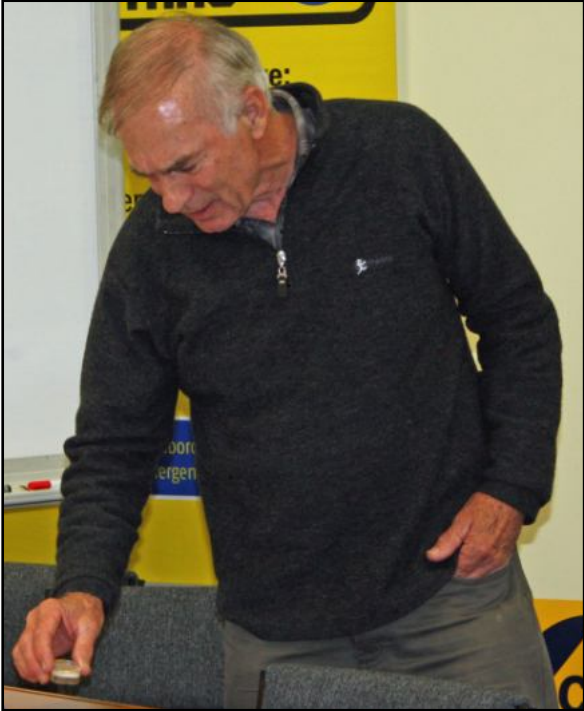
St Mary's School: Bill mentioned he had a call from a teacher at the school asking if the club could provide some communications/electronic activities for a class of Year 6/7 children. Bill to meet with the teacher to see what could be done.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 27th August, 2015

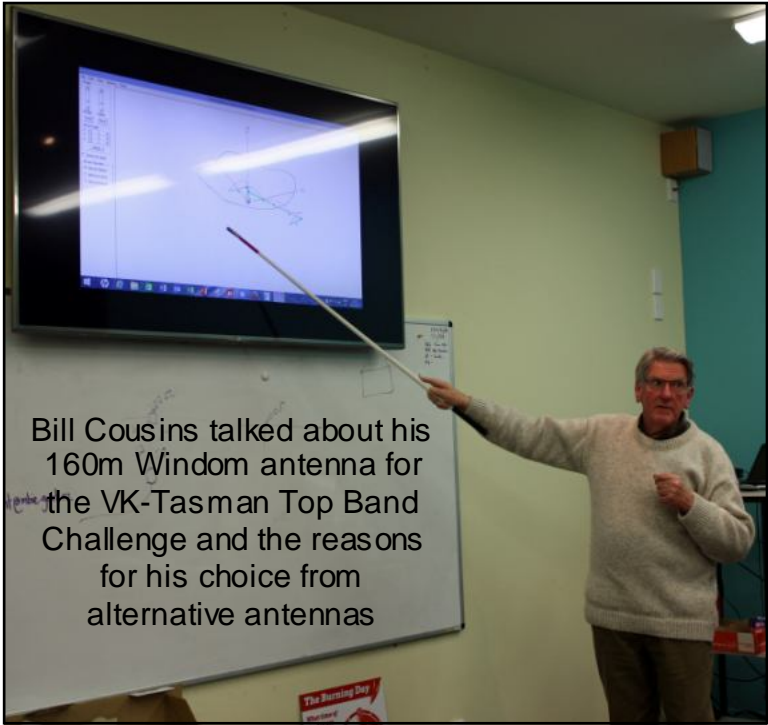
CLOSURE: There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2040 hrs.



SHOW AND TELL



Ken Menzies with his Tuning Fork watch mechanism



Bill Cousins talked about his 160m Windom antenna for the VK-Tasman Top Band Challenge and the reasons for his choice from alternative antennas



Grant Simpson demonstrated a Pipo X8 internet remote control system for transceivers

Bill Marsh with an MF Broadcast receiving loop antenna

John Neal showed his QRP transceiver & DDS synthesizer



LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND IS COMING UP

Lighthouse weekend, or more formally known as ILLW, will take place over the weekend of 15/16 August. The event is designed to promote amateur radio by operating from some very nice locations near Light houses or Light ships. It is not a contest, although some do treat it like one. The Cape team pride themselves on some good Dx over the weekend, but we don't obsess over number of stations worked. Save that paranoia for real contests!

It can be hard to work a distant lighthouse station as they tend to "rag chew" about their location and setup etc. Difficult to get a word in sometimes.

Tony ZL2DOG (now SK) was key in garnering interest from local amateurs. Cape Campbell was selected as the preferred operating location as it met the criteria for a genuine lighthouse, and so began the annual trek to this location. Lights have an ILLW numbering system. The Cape is NZ0001, so Tony must have been right on the case in 1998.

Accommodation is limited, and has improved in quality since we began going there. Initially there was only the refurbished radio beacon, generator shed, and some small huts. Very cosy. It should be improved this year as the buildings have been maintained.

Whilst the Cape is quite close, it really is a different world. The access road has, at times, been impassable due to rain and slips. Even when we do get there, there's no guarantee of fine weather. Sometimes the rain has been horizontal, due to the strong wind, and we have struggled to get antennas up. We always run on battery power, as often the mains power goes off and it can be a few hours before it is restored.

One year we cooked on the barbecue and ate by standby lighting during a prolonged power outage. Radio operating, of course, continued uninterrupted on battery power. Except for one year when, during a rainstorm, the static charge built up on our antenna, such that the receiver was overloaded. We could draw a small continual arc from the centre pin of the antenna to a ground terminal. Operating resumed when we could no longer draw an arc from the centre pin!

Around May the call goes out to put a team together, usually coordinated by Bill ZL2AYZ. Unfortunately he is unavailable this year. Bill is our "magic Dx man", so we will have to work harder for the contacts this year! Each team member pays his or her own way for this event.

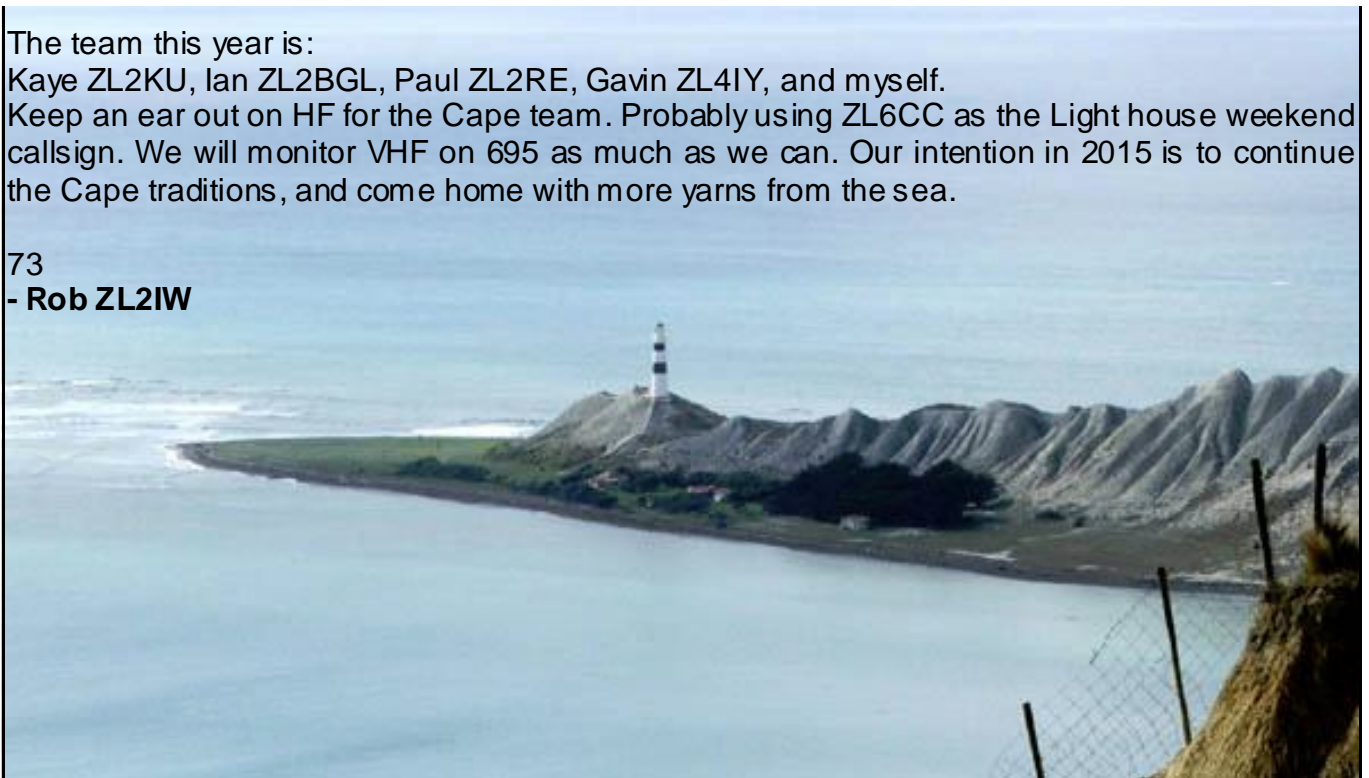
The team this year is:

Kaye ZL2KU, Ian ZL2BGL, Paul ZL2RE, Gavin ZL4IY, and myself.

Keep an ear out on HF for the Cape team. Probably using ZL6CC as the Light house weekend callsign. We will monitor VHF on 695 as much as we can. Our intention in 2015 is to continue the Cape traditions, and come home with more yarns from the sea.

73

- Rob ZL2IW



BRANCH SECRETARY REQUIRED URGENTLY!!!

This position is still available and looks like it will remain so while I still carry on doing it. The reason for carrying on was only to ensure continuity, but it is beginning to look more like perpetuity! Hence, my last Committee Meeting will be in September.

The task is not onerous. To some extent, it is what you make it, but it might pay to chat to President Grant to see what the expectations are, or even attend a committee meeting (with no strings attached) and get a feel for it - even ask a few questions as to expectations. I had no experience of the position and, unfortunately, due to Tony's unexpected and sad departure hence, I had no mentor or example. Therefore the list of tasks below may be incomplete in the view of some. Yes, I should have had a chat to Helen. Anyway, the job appeared to me to be:

1. Take Minutes at meetings and forward to Caryl for Interface, each month.
2. Write the odd letter on Branch business and see to correspondence generally..
3. Keep Branch records, such as membership list and contact details.
4. Anything else that comes to mind that doesn't seem to be done by others, unless a Double-Happy under the proverbial of someone who should, is more appropriate.
5. I'll remember a couple of other minor matters as soon as I send this off.



Volunteers!



The stipend doubles after your first year in office!

Come on, you always wanted to, so get in there and stir the pot!

- **Bill Cousins, ZL2AYZ**

Have a look at www.radiocomms.com.au. The item on digital comms at Lake Rotoiti "Wireless In The Wilderness" may be of interest to you (or the use of HF in Malaysia "HF To The Rescue In Malaysian Floods"). Either scroll through the pictures on the front page, or click on Recent Articles and find them listed there.

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

Quite a few years ago now there was a Marlborough Branch edition of Break-In. The current edition could have almost been a Marlborough Branch. There's the SPAM column from Rob, ZL2IW, The From The President column and an article reviewing the Tennatron dual band dipole from Stuart, ZL2TW, Gerard ZL2VGA's contribution of an article about an end fed half wave antenna and matching unit. A couple of articles from me, ZL2BK describing the PIPO X8 mini computer and how to use one speaker for multiple radios. In the Around the Branches is an article from Bill, ZL2AYZ about the antenna installation at Brayshaw Park.

It looks like the lunch at The Speight's Ale House will be a good gathering with about 26 there. It is a good opportunity to catch up with many members that can't make it to the usual evening meetings, especially during the winter months.

Many thanks to Bill, ZL2AYZ for his many years as secretary and he's done an excellent job of keeping the meeting Minutes and getting them to the editor in plenty of time to go into Interface. However, as you can see above, we urgently need a replacement. This should have happened at the last AGM but no one came forward so Bill reluctantly stayed on. The time has come for someone to volunteer as the club will not be able to continue without a secretary. So please volunteer, even if you've never done this before. You can do it!

- **Grant, ZL2BK**

Well done AREC! For those who missed this article in the local paper...

Two tourists lost in the Marlborough bush overnight huddled for hours in freezing conditions as rescue teams navigated steep terrain to find them safe and well, but very cold.

A man and a woman from England, thought to be in their mid-20s, were "incredibly fortunate" to fare so well after becoming lost in -6 degree Celsius conditions on Mt Riley on Sunday night, said Marlborough LandSAR liaison Russell Montgomery.

Police received a call from the tourists about 6pm on Sunday, indicating they were lost in Mount Richmond Forest Park. Montgomery said a team of LandSAR officers was organised to assist police and spent more than three hours locating the tourists in the steep, difficult conditions.

Icicles appeared on the trees on Mt Riley overnight, where two tourists were lost in the bush. He said the pair, from Cornwall, had gone up Mt Riley and were coming down when they missed a marker and lost their way.

"They got themselves into a gully where there's a series of waterfalls and cliffs, then very wisely sat down and got in touch with the police."

Montgomery said police were able to track their location via GPS and the LandSAR team eventually found the pair 30 metres from the GPS position.

He said they were found about 2am, shivering and hungry, but well.

"There were icicles hanging off the trees and the ground was rock solid. They were clad in reasonable gear but they were not moving, so they were very, very cold when we got to them." The pair were given "a brew" and some extra clothing before making the journey out of the bush on foot. Montgomery said police considered a helicopter rescue, but the dense bush canopy and steep terrain would have made it too difficult.

Rescue teams navigated the cliffs with the tourists and brought them up about 400 metres before they could get them out of the bush. They emerged about 5am on Monday.

He said without cellphone reception and good radio communications, the mission could have turned into a major search on Monday.

"The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) was pivotal in terms of radio comms, they did an incredibly good job."

The rescue was the second callout for the search and rescue volunteers on Sunday. The first was for an elderly man, with a memory impairment who had walked away from the Blenheim rest home he was living at.

LandSAR members were called in to locate the man, who was wearing a special tracking pendant, but Montgomery said he returned to the home by himself.

- Marlborough Express 20.07.15

CONSTRUCTORS' AWARD SEPTEMBER 10th

Have you started on your entry yet?

\$50 Jaycar Gift Voucher First Prize



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See what's coming up in **your** dub. Make sure **you** volunteer for something, if able, & mark it on your calendar!

AUGUST 2015

- | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 9 | Mid Winter Lunch, Speight's Alehouse |
| 15/16 | Lighthouse Weekend |

SEPTEMBER 2015

- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 10 | Constructors' Award |
|----|---------------------|

